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Wednesday, June 8, 2011

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DIAZ, A-ROD SEEN CANOODLING

{page 22}



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metro



Wednesday, June 8,
2011



News worth
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Queensway makeover

- Project will create 1,800 jobs, cut gridlock, pave way for LRT project, premier says
- Construction expected to start in 2012, be completed by 2015

Highway 417 is in need of a reno, and the provincial government says it will spend more on than \$200 million fixing it up.

As previously reported on metronews.ca/ottawa, the provincial money will go toward widening the Queensway between Nicholas Street and Ottawa Road 174, replacing bridges and adding bus lanes. Premier Dalton McGuinty announced yesterday.

"It served us well in the past, but it's not serving us well today," said McGuinty at a news conference this morning. "Ottawa drivers have experienced gridlock, and at times, risky conditions. That's not something we can live with."

McGuinty said the project will create jobs, help businesses expand and reduce commute times.

The project will add one lane in each direction from Nicholas Street to Ottawa Road 174. It will also widen and repair bridges crossing the Rideau River and St. Laurent Boulevard and replace bridges crossing Lees Avenue, Vanier Parkway and Belfast Road.

● SEAN MCKIBBON/
WITH FILES FROM JESSICA SMITH



► Premier Dalton McGuinty is reflected in the sunglasses of a construction worker as the Liberal leader announces \$200 million in provincial government funding for a project to widen Highway 417.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Rally Airline grounded?

- Air Canada workers holding a rally in Toronto tomorrow
- Disgruntled union could call strike beginning June 13 {page 16}

End of water ban?



Mayor hints of ban being lifted early for south end residents {page 4}

'Rink of dreams'

City council set to vote in favour of new outdoor rink at City Hall {page 3}



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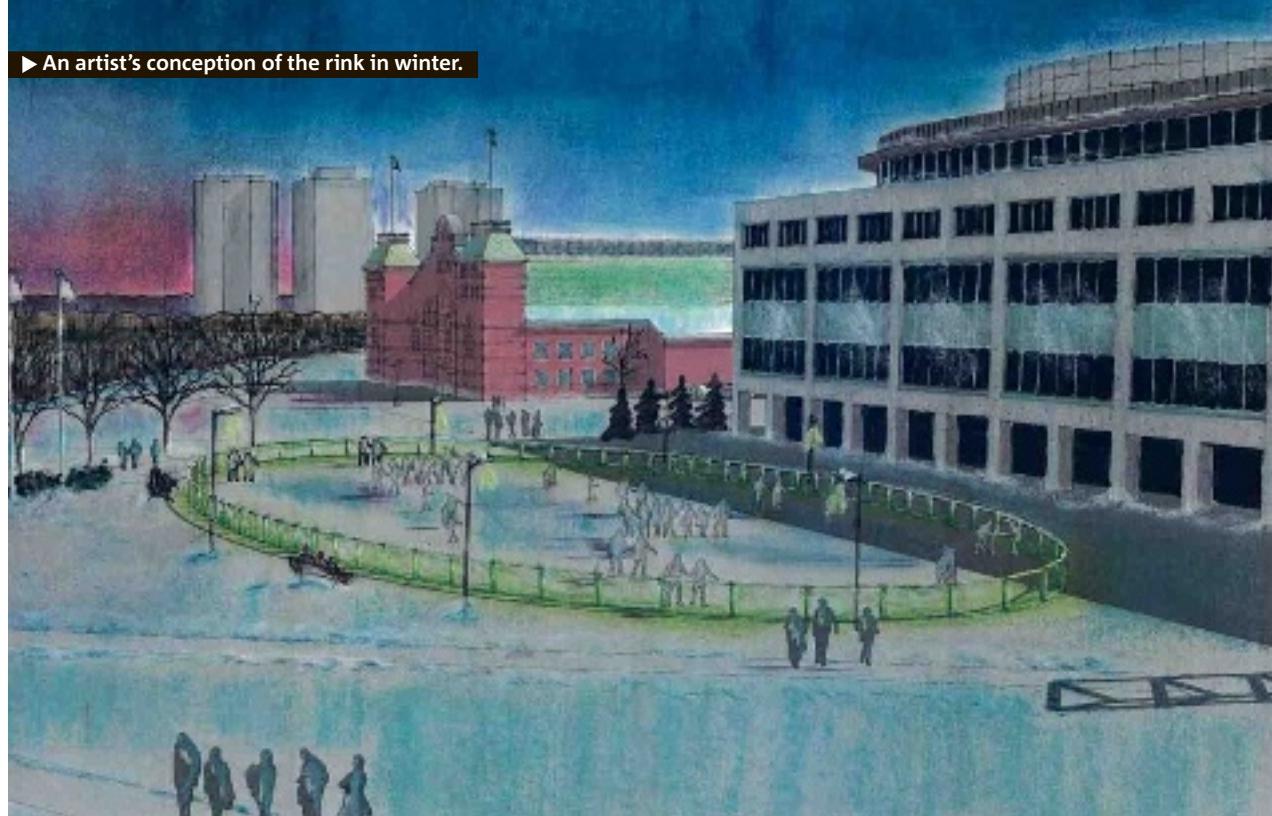
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Rink of Dreams a likely reality after \$1M boost

► Mayor supports plan for skating rink outside City Hall ► Sens Foundation commits to raising money for facility ► City to cover remaining \$250,000

CONTRIBUTED

► An artist's conception of the rink in winter.



 **JOE LOFARO**
@METRONEWS.CA

City council is set to vote in favour of a new outdoor rink outside City Hall.

Dubbed the "Rink of Dreams," the project got the thumbs up yesterday after the Finance and Economic Development Committee unanimously endorsed a \$1 million commitment from the Ottawa Senators Foundation.

Mayor Jim Watson fully supported the plan, saying it would animate downtown Ottawa, which he said can be dormant dur-

ing most of the winter.

"It's a good investment," said Watson. "It's going to give tourists and visitors alike a chance to come and skate, particularly when the canal is not always predictable or dependable."

The Sens Foundation will raise \$1 million to pay for the facility at Marion Dewar Plaza while the city will cover the remaining \$250,000. Committee staff said it would try to trim down the \$200,000 annual operating cost.

The Sens Foundation is also planning to install natural, non-refrigerated

Senators to visit

The Rink of Dreams will contain 12,500 square feet of oval ice that will be kept refrigerated during the winter. It will be one of the largest outdoor rinks in Ottawa.

► **Zamboni.** Ottawa Senators president, Cyril Leeder, said a zamboni will be kept near City hall in order to

rinks in the city that could operate year-round.

"Our foundation will be funding these entirely in conjunction with the city,"

maintain the ice. He also said he is considering permanent change rooms and restrooms for the public.

► **Community space.** During the spring and summer months, the area will be used as a community space for events.

► **Skate with Senators.** Leeder said Ottawa Senators players may also visit the rink in the winter and teach kids on the ice.

said Cyril Leeder, Ottawa Senators president.

Leeder said the first one could be built in Vanier this winter.

Man suffers serious injuries after fall

A 51-year-old man was in serious condition yesterday afternoon after falling approximately nine metres while trimming a tall tree on a lawn near the 1000 block of Cahill Drive West.

Paramedics treated him shortly after 11:39 a.m. and said he suffered serious

head injuries and possible internal injuries. The man lost consciousness soon after paramedics arrived.

As a result of his injuries, paramedics said the man was resisting care which impeded a full assessment.

"They don't know what they're doing, it's not some-

thing they do consciously. They tend to kind of fight to protect themselves," said paramedics spokesperson, J.P. Trottier. "It's quite often a clear symptom and sign of a very serious head injury. They can't help it."

A neighbour who lives across the street from the

incident said she saw an injured man on a stretcher moving his arms and legs while receiving care. She also said she saw two younger workers outside after the incident.

"They were pretty shook up. They're just young men," she said. ● **JOE LOFARO**

Parties trade barbs as campaign fever sets in

Four months before the provincial election, campaigning has begun — with polls, attack ads, funding announcements and overblown controversies.

Premier Dalton McGuinty held a press conference in Ottawa yesterday to announce funding for an already announced project. He also criticized the PC election platform, saying there's "a whopping \$10 billion hole" in the middle of it.

"They're telling us they're going to do more for us, they're going to charge us less and pay down the debt at the same time. That's magic," said McGuinty.

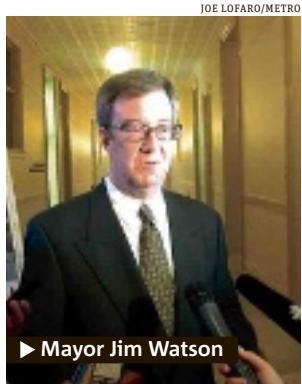
PC MPP Lisa McLeod attended the press conference and wasted no time disputing McGuinty's \$10 billion claim.

"This is rich, coming from a guy who just issued HST bribe cheques and then had to tell everyone not to cash them because they might bounce," she said.

The government has the money to cover the cheques, McLeod said later, when asked to clarify her remark. They just can't be cashed right away. Because of the postal strike, people are getting the cheques early and some people aren't looking at the date before sliding them into bank ma-



► Lisa McLeod



► Mayor Jim Watson

Water ban lifted early?

► Outdoor water ban in effect since April 27 for residents of Barrhaven, Manotick and Riverside South



Residents in the city's south end may be able to whip out their garden hoses sooner rather than later after Mayor Jim Watson hinted yesterday that the water ban may be lifted earlier than expected.

"Staff have been working very hard on the pipe and they're obviously

"We understand the frustration in the south end. The public have been very respectful of the ban."

MAYOR JIM WATSON

ahead of schedule, which is a good thing," said Watson of the ongoing repairs to the Woodroffe Avenue water main.

Watson refused to provide a specific date as to when the ban would be lifted, saying he wanted to

avoid raising false hopes for those affected, but later said when the announcement will be made that a date will be given.

An update from the city is expected within the next 48 hours, Watson said.

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Graffiti leads reported hate crimes

Hate-crime stats

Police-reported hate crimes

- Ottawa's total in 2008: 51
- Ottawa's total in 2009: 134
- Number of 2009's reported hate crimes in Ottawa that were graffiti and property damage: 102
- Nationwide total in 2008: 1,036
- Nationwide total in 2009: 1,473
- Percentage, nationwide, that were violent: 40

Ottawa saw the biggest rise in hate crimes reported to police in all of Canada between 2008 and 2009, Statistics Canada reported yesterday.

"I think it's a promising statistic," said John Medeiros staff sergeant of the diversity and race relations Section of the Ottawa Police.

Medeiros said the statistics reflect the number hate crimes reported — not the total number of hate crimes committed — and police are always trying to get victims to come forward for help. Hate crimes — along with swarings, sexual assaults, and gang-related violence — are under-reported to police, he said.

"Violent offences, such as

assault, accounted for about four in 10 hate crimes reported by police. Violent offences were particularly more common among hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation," said the Statistics Canada report.

In Ottawa, 102 of the 134 reported hate crimes were graffiti or other property damage, said Medeiros.

● JESSICA SMITH

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'We will not kneel,' shouts Gadhafi

► NATO unleashes most punishing airstrikes yet ► Tripoli HQ a target

Moammar Gadhafi stood defiant yesterday in the face of the heaviest and most punishing NATO airstrikes yet.

"We will not kneel!" he shouted on Libyan state television as thunderous daylight attacks sent plumes of smoke billowing above his central Tripoli compound.

The Libyan leader denounced NATO and the rebels challenging his rule. He vowed never to surrender.

Alliance officials have warned for days they were increasing the intensity of their air campaign to oust Gadhafi after more than 40 years in power.

It couldn't be confirmed whether Gadhafi's speech was a live phone call or an audio recording, but it appeared to take state TV by surprise. The sound was hastily adjusted to make it louder.

Where is he?

- Gadhafi was last seen in a brief appearance on state television in late May.
- He has mostly been in hiding since NATO strikes in April targeted one of his homes.
- Libyan officials said one of his sons, Saif al-Arab, and three of his grandchildren were killed in that strike.

"We will not surrender: We only have one choice — to the end! Death, victory, it does not matter, we are not surrendering!" Gadhafi said.

Highlighting his anger, he called the rebels "bastards."

As he spoke, reporters in Tripoli heard the whooshing sound of low-flying military craft again, followed by several explosions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Outspoken 'gay girl' blogger seized in Syria

A Syrian-American lesbian blogger known for her frank posts about her sexuality and her open criticism of President Bashar Assad's autocratic rule has been detained after weeks on the run in the Syrian capital, her cousin and an activist said yesterday.

Amina Arraf wrote a blog called A Gay Girl in Damascus, a mixture of erotic prose and updates about Syria's uprising.

Her cousin, Rania Ismail, said Arraf was last seen Monday being bundled into a car by three men in civilian clothes.

"We are hoping she is simply in jail and nothing worse has happened to her," Ismail wrote.

She added that Arraf had previously sent her texts to post should something happen to her, but she was holding off in hopes of hearing further

word from her cousin.

The day before she was detained, Arraf wrote on damascusgaygirl.blogspot.com: "I am complex, I am many things; I am an Arab, I am Syrian, I am a woman, I am queer, I am Muslim, I am binational, I am tall, I am too thin; my

sect is Sunni, my clan is Omari, my tribe is Quraysh, my city is Damascus."

Since the uprising against Assad began in mid-March, a government crackdown has left about 1,300 people dead and more than 10,000 de-

tained, according to human rights groups.

Several activists who were briefly detained during the revolt said they were tortured, humiliated and forced to sign pledges to avoid anti-regime activities.

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Tories dispense with throne speech debate

► Government's priority is to pass budget before summer break ► Opposition parties cry foul

Just days into the new session, opposition parties are accusing the Harper government of showing disrespect for Parliament.

New Democrats and Liberals are criticizing the government for dispensing with the traditional debate and vote on the throne speech.

Peter Van Loan, the government's House leader, says throne speech debate is not mandatory and there's simply no time for it this session.

The government's priority is to get its budget passed by June 23, when Parliament is scheduled to break for the summer.

"The budget vote will establish the confidence of the House, so, in that sense,

Usual process

- The throne speech —the blueprint for the Conservatives first majority mandate — kicked off the 41st session of Parliament last Friday.
- Normally, a throne speech is followed by six days of debate and a vote, which is usually the first test of a government's ability to command the confidence of the House of Commons.

a throne speech debate is not entirely necessary," Van Loan said.

Debate on the throne speech could theoretically take place when Parliament resumes in the fall, but he said: "It's possible

that there will be no debate at all."

Thomas Mulcair, the NDP's House leader, pointed out that the Harper government avoided a throne speech debate and vote in 2009, when it held a precarious minority and had reason to fear confidence votes.

He said it's disappointing that the government is continuing that pattern now that it has secured a comfortable majority.

Liberal Leader Bob Rae said it's "absurd" not to have a debate.

"Having the speech on a Friday, with no debate, means no one else gets a chance to speak, no other voices heard," Rae said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM target of hacking attack

It seems a hacker without a cause was the likely culprit behind a false report on the Conservative party website yesterday morning claiming Stephen Harper had been helicoptered to Toronto General Hospital "after an incident at breakfast."

"He was eating breakfast with his kids when a piece of hash-brown lodged in his throat, blocking air from reaching his lungs," the item reported.

The false report was eventually removed from the website, but not before some of the air out of Vancouver's gigantic hubris balloon and brought the city back to Earth (a little bit).

The incident comes at a time when hacking for fun, mischief, malice and profit has been much in evidence around the world.

A person or group called LulzRaft claimed responsibility and plaudits for the Harper hoax on Twitter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Fans watch the Vancouver Canucks lose to the Boston Bruins in downtown Vancouver yesterday

FANS' PARTY POOPED IN GAME 3

 **JEFF HODSON**
@METRONEWS.CA

The 8-1 mauling at the hands of the Bruins Monday let some of the air out of Vancouver's gigantic hubris balloon and brought the city back to Earth (a little bit).

According to police statistics — the universal barometer for good times — about 35,000 people watched the game downtown in glorious weather and at expanded viewing areas to accommodate

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE



the expected crowd.

By comparison, Game 1 saw 40,000 celebrators, despite torrential rain, while 70,000 people hit the street Saturday for Game 2.

Game 2 also leads the way for trouble, with 46 arrests and 891 booze pour-outs.

JEFF HODSON IS MANAGING EDITOR OF METRO VANCOUVER

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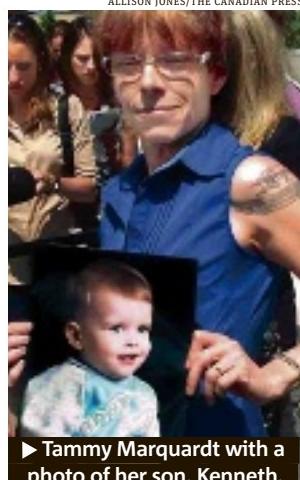
Wrongly convicted woman freed

► Becomes latest person to walk after having been convicted, in part, by Charles Smith's testimony

Shortly after Tammy Marquardt was sent to prison in 1995 in the death of her two-year-old son, she had the word "freedom" tattooed on her arm.

But it wasn't until yesterday that she could truly say she was free.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario quashed Marquardt's second-degree murder conviction earlier this year, calling her a victim of a miscarriage of justice and ordering a new trial. But rather than proceed with a new trial yesterday, the Crown withdrew the charge because of how much time had passed and the "flawed" evidence of the now notorious former



► Tammy Marquardt with a photo of her son, Kenneth.

pathologist Charles Smith. Ontario Superior Court Judge Michael Brown said it's tragic that it took so long to uncover Smith's

mistakes and conveyed to her his "deepest regret."

Smith, recently stripped of his medical licence for professional misconduct and incompetence, testified in her case that Kenneth was strangled or suffocated.

Other experts have since denounced Smith's findings, concluding Kenneth's cause of death could not be determined, though there is strong evidence the boy was epileptic and could have died from a seizure.

"Honestly, I never thought I would see this day," Marquardt said. She was convicted in 1995 and spent 14 years in prison before being granted bail in 2009. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



► South Korean policemen stand at a blockade set up to keep back college students during a student rally to urge the government to lower tuition for them in Seoul yesterday.

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students call for halved tuition

The student councils of four universities in Seoul vowed yesterday to go on a joint one-day strike later this week to call for halved tuition, which President Lee Myung-bak had promised during his election campaign.



► Stanley

PM names cat

Stephen Harper's new cat now has a name: Stanley.

A Facebook poll had asked people to vote on a

name for the Prime Minister's grey tabby. Stanley won easily over runner-up Smokie. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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► Canada Post vehicles sit idle outside a sorting depot in Montreal. Scenes such as this may take place across the country if there's a national walkout.

No mail mess – yet

► Union puts off national walkout, local strikes go on

Postal workers are considering an escalation of their current round of rotating strikes but their union is still not waging a full-blown national walkout.

Union leaders decided late yesterday that workers in Calgary and Edmonton will be off the job today, in the sixth day of rotating strikes.

About 1,000 postal workers were on strike yesterday in Moncton, N.B., and Victoria, and ear-

lier strikes were held in Winnipeg, Hamilton and Montreal.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers said escalation was discussed but CUPW will continue the less disruptive localized strikes for now.

Canada Post said the strikes have already had a severe impact on its business, dropping mail volumes as much as 50 per cent since they began.

"This decline in volume comes at a time when the company is already struggling to address significant business challenges," the corporation said in a statement.

"Canada Post does not understand why the Canadian Union of Postal Workers would willingly damage the business with strike action when the company has put a strong offer on the table."

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Please call (613) 739-2195 or visit our Web site at www.blood.ca to obtain a registration form or additional information.

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► Democratic U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner reacts during a news conference yesterday in New York. A choked-up Weiner confessed that he tweeted a bulging-underpants photo of himself to a young woman.

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tearful, but won't resign

- Congressman says lewd Twitter pic wasn't illegal and he will submit to inquiry
- House Democrats express disappointment and embarrassment
- Reflects erosion of support for the 46-year-old New York congressman

A prominent Democratic lawmaker's once promising career was in danger yesterday after he acknowledged sending a lewd photo to a woman over Twitter and then lying repeatedly to protect himself.

Congressman Anthony Weiner has refused to resign even as house Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi

formally requested an ethics investigation.

The National Republican Congressional Committee seized on the scandal as a 2012 campaign issue, issuing news releases calling on more than a dozen house Democrats to return campaign contributions from Weiner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not sure of ages

- Weiner acknowledged that he had engaged in inappropriate contact with six women over the course of three years through social-networking sites like Twitter and Facebook and occasionally over the phone.
- He said he had never met or had a physical relationship with any of the women and was not even sure of their ages.
- Weiner said he never had sex outside of his marriage.
- Last July, Weiner married Huma Abedin, a top aide to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.



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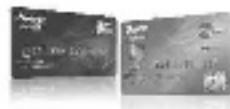


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JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN

METRO



Vestigial: (vĕstĭj'ēəl): Relating to a body part that has become small and lost its use because of evolutionary change.

For example, Canada Post. In case you haven't heard, there's a strike going on at the post office. It's a nice, polite, post-modern rotating strike that, so far, has touched lightly on smaller cities such as Victoria and Hamilton, but the posties could hit the bricks across the board and most of us would only notice a slight reduction in the amount of junk mail cluttering our mailboxes.

Snail mail is one of those vestiges, like the appendix, that is hanging around (literally, in the case of the appendix) but has an increasingly obscure purpose.

Unless you're one of those vestigial anachronisms who likes to pay bills by mail and fondle your paycheque for a few minutes before you sacrifice it to hungry creditors, you probably pay your bills on the Internet, get your pay via direct deposit and send emails to your relatives in Parry Sound, Ont.

Even snail-mail Christmas cards are giving way to e-cards, which you can pick up on your laptop, iPad, PlayBook, smartphone, desktop, etc. Of course, you can't mount them on the mantel, but interior decorators everywhere agree that's a good thing.

Snail mail has decreased by 17 per cent since 2006, says Canada Post, and, frankly, it's surprising the drop isn't greater. Must be all those vital fast-food coupons.

So what is the union thinking? Why remind us that Canada Post employees, with no advanced educational requirements or experience, start at \$24 per hour with three weeks' holidays, retire with full pension at 55, and can bank sick days (what's a sick day?), for being the workplace equivalent of the appendix?

The sick-day banking thing is particularly interesting. You could argue that sick days are a humane mechanism, but why should you get to keep them when you're not sick? And turn them in for cash? At taxpayer expense?

The sad truth is, if Canada Post had an appendectomy tomorrow, no one, except for those 50,000 people with nice jobs, would really suffer. It might take a couple of weeks to learn how to send money by email, pay Canada Revenue online, and transfer your holiday greetings to Facebook, but there is nothing that posties do that can't be duplicated online or by private companies.

Apparently, postal Armageddon is not arriving fast enough for the union, so as it teeters on the brink of irrelevance, it has decided to go on strike, finish itself off, and leave no forwarding address.

Return to sender. Just sayin'.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

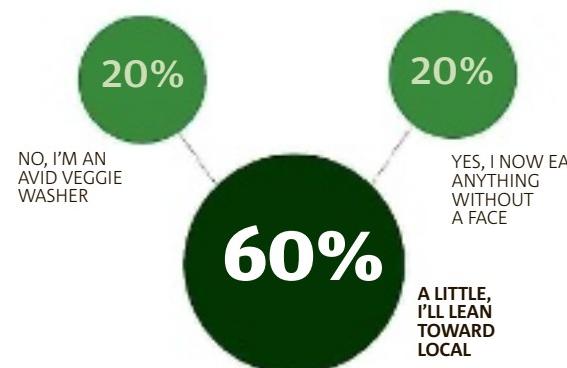


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Has the E. coli outbreak in Europe changed how you shop for produce?



Local tweets



- ▶ **@Ottguy:** It's that time of year again! The time when our city's buses just spontaneously combust. RT @kurtyo9_240 Oc transpo bus on fire ...
- ▶ **@Ottawasteph:** #WTF #canqueer RT @1310news Hate crimes up 42% in Canada from last year & Ottawa is the city with the biggest increase. <http://bit.ly/kF71Ng>
- ▶ **@JimWatsonOttawa:** RT @usembassyottawa: Ambassador Jacobson on one of his favourite things at the Embassy in #Canada: Doors Open Ottawa!
- ▶ **@EugeneHaslam:** VANITY FAIR: Will & Kate should visit @Zaphods_Ottawa during Royal visit. [@alan-nealotawa @kady @apartment613 #ottcity](http://bit.ly/kdARR3)

Worth mentioning

ROME. Global food prices fell slightly in May, but they will remain "at stubbornly high levels" for months to come, a UN agency said yesterday.

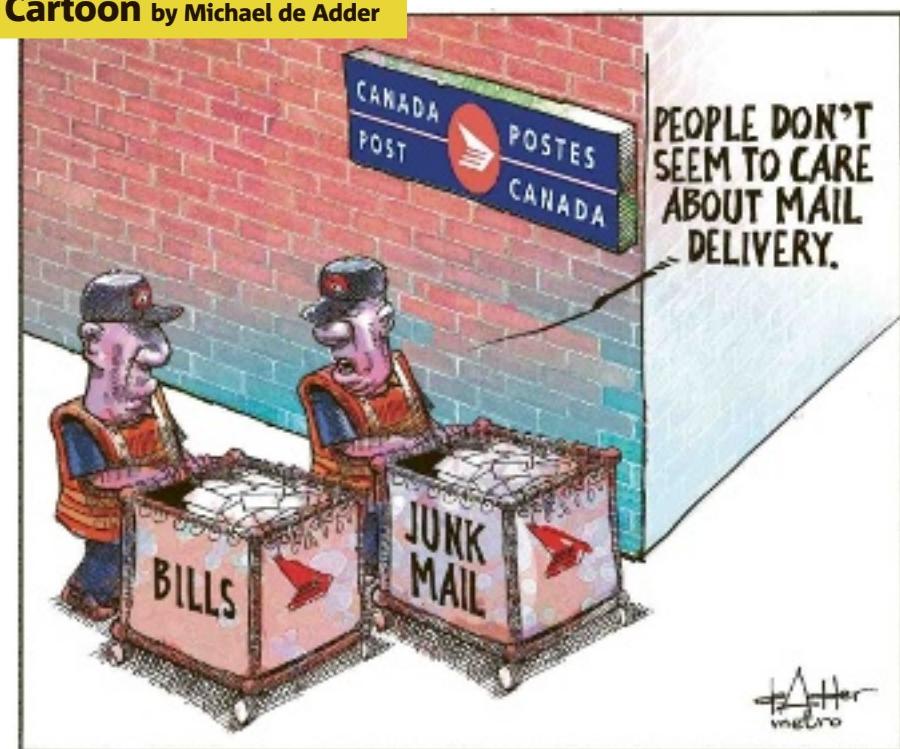
The Food and Agriculture Organization said high and volatile prices can be expected the rest of this year and into 2012, citing a decline in food stockpiles and modest production increases for most of the crops.

Food prices dropped one per cent in May compared to the previous month, but remain 37 per cent above May 2010, according to a price index released by the agency. It said lower cereal and sugar prices led to the decrease in the May index, offsetting increases in meat and dairy prices.

The index hit an all-time high in February, raising fears of a repeat of the food crisis of 2007-08, when high prices led to violence and political tensions in many parts of the world. Prices in March decreased, though experts warn they remain far too high for many poor communities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

No sequel for this sheep named Shrek

New Zealanders were mourning the loss of the country's most famous sheep yesterday, a shaggy national icon named Shrek who was renowned for avoiding being shorn for years.

Shrek captured the public's imagination in 2004 after he evaded the annual shearing roundups for the previous seven years by hiding in caves on his farm on the South



► Shrek

Island. When finally found, he was clad in an astonishing 27 kilograms of wool.

That's about five times a typical annual shearing from Shrek's breed, the Merino sheep, prized for some of the softest wool. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Air Canada workers to rally in Toronto

► Union could call strike beginning midnight June 13

Disgruntled Air Canada unions plan to hold a rally at Pearson International Airport tomorrow, a day before one of the unions could serve notice of a strike.

The Canadian Auto Workers union hopes thousands of its members and supporting unions will converge at Terminal 1 domestic arrivals starting at 1 p.m.

It wasn't clear where the rally might move from there or if the gathering will cause any disruptions to airport passengers.

The CAW, which has 3,800 Air Canada customer-service and airport workers across the country, said union members will stage "a mass rally of solidarity and convey to

Main issue

Three unions representing flight attendants, ground crews, counter personnel and other workers have united to fight Air Canada's plan to introduce a defined-contribution pension plan for new workers.

► The current defined-benefit pension plan provides

retirees with a predictable income, but it exposes the airline to additional costs if the pension fund's assets can't pay for the benefits.

► With defined-contribution plans, the airline's contribution is limited to a set negotiated amount and payouts to retirees depend on the performance of the underlying investments.

management that enough is enough."

Air Canada said in an email that it recognizes and respects the right of its employees to express their opinions.

"We remain committed to reaching a negotiated settlement with the union leadership and avert strike

action and customers can continue to book Air Canada flights with confidence," the company said.

The union and Air Canada are meeting behind closed doors trying to reach an agreement.

The CAW could serve 72-hours notice on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Alan Mulally, president and CEO of the Ford Motor Company, poses in a new Ford Mustang outside the New York Stock Exchange after ringing the opening bell yesterday.

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ford sets sights on Asia for growth

Ford Motor Co. said yesterday that it wants to expand its global sales by 50 per cent by the middle of this decade, mostly through growth in Asia. Analysts are concerned that Ford is lagging behind rivals like GM and Volkswagen in Asia. Ford's sales more than doubled in India last year thanks to the introduction of the Figo, an \$8,000 subcompact. But Ford still controls less than three per cent of the market in India. The company said it will expand its offerings in India from three cars to eight by the middle of this decade. Ford also said it will add 10 cars to its lineup in China, where it currently offers five. Ford controls 2.7 per cent of the market in China, compared to a 14-per cent share for GM.

Balanced budgets key to weathering crisis: Flaherty

Ottawa needs to return to a balanced budget in order to have the capacity to adjust to any future unexpected global shocks, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"Fundamentally, in our view, it's about fiscal management," Flaherty said in a speech to the International Forum of the Americas in Montreal.

"It's about making sure that we run surpluses, get

back to a balanced budget and pay down public debt so that when we do have a crisis as we did in the fall of 2008 we have the capacity to act."

After billions of dollars of stimulus spending, Flaherty said the government has to move back to balanced budgets because it's unpredictable when the next shock might come.

The focus by 2014-2015 will be to cut \$4 billion of



► Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks at the International Economic Forum of the Americas in Montreal yesterday.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

spending annually, he said of the federal budget tabled Monday.

He said stimulus spending by the federal and provincial governments was a great example of the federation working well.

The International Monetary Fund has forecast that Canada will have one of the strongest economic recoveries among the G7 countries this year and 2012. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Bragging rights

► Canada has had seven consecutive quarters of growth ending in a strong first quarter, said Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

► The country has also posted the strongest employment growth among the G7 countries since the recession ended in 2009, having recouped all its lost economic output.

What does Randall Denley think of Tim Hudak?

"...look to PC leader Tim Hudak... so far, there isn't much to see."

(Ottawa Citizen, November 28, 2010)

"[Hudak has] positioned himself as yet another guy who will do anything to buy your vote with your money."

(Ottawa Citizen, November 20, 2010)

"Tim Hudak's tactics... have been juvenile and ineffective."

(Ottawa Citizen, December 7, 2009)

"Hudak plays politics like the Ottawa Senators' Chris Neil plays hockey. There's a lot of banging and crashing, but not much to show on the scoreboard."

(Ottawa Citizen, December 7, 2009)

Authorized by the Ottawa West-Nepean PLA

Nintendo unveils new Wii

- Will the Japanese giant's new Wii U revolutionize gaming?
- Controller resembles a mobile device and can be used as a shield

Nintendo introduced its new game console, the Wii U, at the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, Calif., yesterday.

Its distinguishing feature is a unique controller, which resembles a tablet computer. Users can play games on the TV, on the controller, or both.

"It's a new structure for home entertainment," Reggie Fils-Aime, president and COO of the company's North American division, told the crowd.

Although the controller resembles a mobile device

— and the Wii U itself is Internet ready — Fils-Aime cautioned that, "it was not designed to be a portable gaming machine, even though it shares some characteristics. The images displayed on the new controller are generated only by Wii U."

"Nintendo needed to differentiate themselves from their competition one more time, and they're very far out of the box with this new controller," Chris Kohler, gaming editor of Wired.com, told Metro.

Fils-Aime displayed footage of New Super Mario Bros. Me and Lego City Stories. Other titles include Batman: Arkham City, a new Assassin's Creed and EA Sports.

The new product is key to Nintendo's future. Although the original Wii has sold 86.7 million units worldwide (compared to 54 million for Xbox and 50.6 million for Playstation 3), sales have lagged recently, with a reported 29 per cent decline in revenue.

• METRO WORLD NEWS

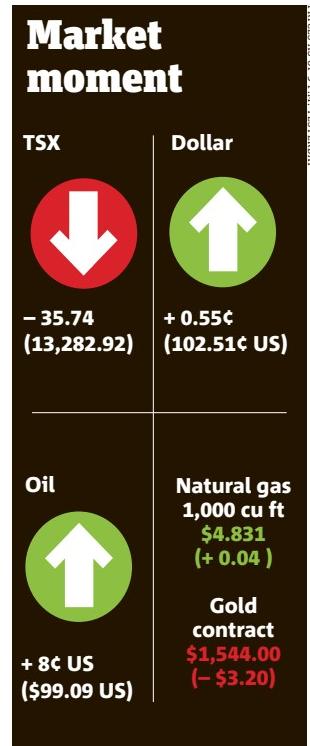


Wii vs. Wii U

What's the difference between the old and new systems?

- **The controller.** Wii U's controller is rectangular and has a touch screen, speaker and camera compared to the screen-free baton of the Wii.
- **More mature games.** There's more bloodshed in space, sports and warrior games. Compare that to the family-friendly Wii Fit.

► **Nintendo's new Wii U goes on sale next year.**



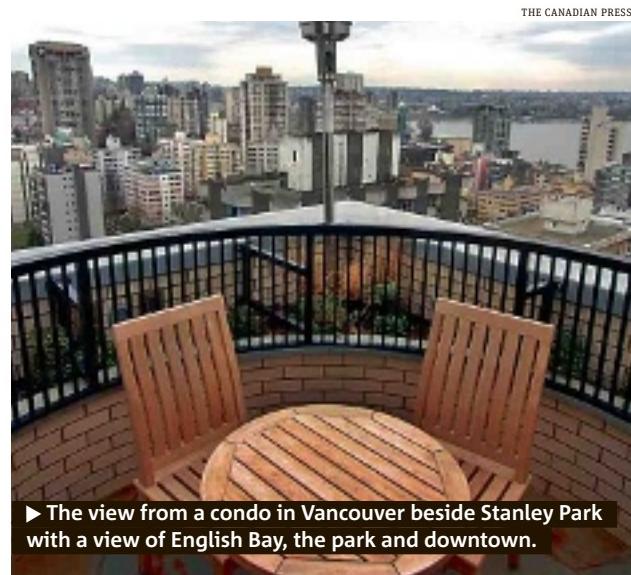


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Vancouver housing costs could plummet: Report

A new report suggests sky-high housing prices in Vancouver could fall more than 21 per cent if foreign investment ebbs or interest rates climb.

The report from BMO Economics says overpriced homes in some Canadian cities, along with elevated household debt, suggest the real estate market is vulnerable to a correction — espe-

cially in Vancouver.

It says past housing corrections saw Vancouver home values fall an average of 21 per cent. Prices are even higher today, averaging \$815,000 in April, making the market even more susceptible.

The report says housing costs in Vancouver now eat up 11.2 times of median family income. The Canadi-

an average is 5.1 times median family income — a historically high level as average Canadian home prices have more than doubled in the past 10 years.

BMO says current prices suggest that even a modest increase in interest rates will slow the market in coming years. Some triggers that could set off a broader collapse include a

rapid rise in interest rates, a sharp increase in unemployment or a slowing of foreign investment.

High home prices in Toronto also mean the country's biggest city is likely poised for softer prices in the near term, fuelled by a rising supply of condos that could soon outstrip demand, leaving a glut on the market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RIM connects with Scoreloop

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion has acquired German social game developer Scoreloop in a bid to boost development of social and collaborative gaming applications.

RIM says Scoreloop will help its developer community "take gaming to a new level of social integration."

Munich-based Scoreloop has developed a gaming ecosystem aimed at building communities designed to generate revenue from mobile games.

Its products allow pro-

grammers to build connections from games to social media through virtual currencies, global leaderboards and product promotions.

RIM, based in Waterloo, Ont., has had a stiff fight from technology giant Apple, whose hugely popular iPad is in direct competition with RIM's less lauded PlayBook tablet.

Apple announced iMessage for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, which mimics the popular BlackBerry Messenger program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Scene in brief



Space shuttle Endeavour commander Mark Kelly delivered an out-of-this-world message to a U2 concert after Bono dedicated a song to Kelly's wife, Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Kelly appeared on a video board from the International Space Station and said "Tell my wife I love her very much."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Patti LaBelle, Steve Harvey to be honoured at the BET Awards, where Chris Brown is to perform. Scan code for story.

Lady Antebellum not a 'one-trick pony'

- Country trio wants to move on from the crazy success of their single Need You Now
- Next topic: Lady A reveals Sept. 13 release date for their new album, Own the Night

Now that Need You Now has changed their lives, the members of Lady Antebellum are ready to change the subject.

The country trio will release their follow-up to that Grammy-winning album on Sept. 13.

Own the Night turns the page on a notable chapter in the story of Hillary Scott, Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley's rise from promising country up-and-comers to one of the most successful crossover acts in music history. It's time to move on.

"We don't want anyone to think we're a one-trick pony," Kelley said in a phone interview with The Associated Press from Los Angeles. "That's our goal, to say, 'Hey, guys, we've got more coming.'"

Need You Now was the top-selling country album of 2010 with three million copies sold, and the title track was the top-selling digital download.

Fans downloaded the song about an ill-advised and drunken late-night call to an old flame more than 3.1 million times last year.

It was the rare country song that resonated across the spectrum of listeners,



► Thrown into the spotlight: Need You Now was the top-selling country album of 2010 with three million copies sold, and the title track was the top-selling digital download.

I think for us we're just ready to have new music out there and have the conversation shift toward something different.

CHARLES KELLEY OF LADY ANTEBELLUM, ON THE GROUP'S HIT SONG NEED YOU NOW

rising to No. 2 on Billboard's pop music chart.

The song netted most

of the major country awards, and Lady A won a leading five Grammys, including song of the year.

The album produced three multiweek No. 1s on the country chart and pushed the trio into headliner territory on the road, where they spent much of 2010 after the January release of the album turned everything upside down.

"I think we'd be lying if we didn't say it puts that

little added pressure on us for this record," Kelley said.

"I think for us we're just ready to have new music out there and have the conversation shift toward something different. My biggest fear is having the conversation keep being about a song that's two or three years old. I feel as artists and musicians we're ready to move on to the next chapter."

Movin' on

Lady A are eager to spin the conversation forward to the May 2 release of their new single, Just a Kiss, and fans showed they're receptive.

- The single debuted at No. 7 on the Hot 100, a record for a country group.
- The song is a classic example of the trio's strengths with Kelley and Scott harmonizing over a slow-burning track about simple emotions that most people can connect with.
- The trio now has a recognizable sound that will be featured on Own the Night, Kelley said.
- Much of the writing was done on tour buses with the trio inviting songwriters to accompany them for a week at a time.
- "There's a lot of songs I think that have a lot of nostalgia to them," Kelley said. "I think when you're out there on the road and you're so busy, you tend to get a little more introspective and you start thinking about what road led you where you are. So there's a lot of songs looking back at childhood or old love or whatever it may be."

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Graham gets a little goofy

► Playing the 'wacky aunt' wasn't difficult for Graham who loves spending time with her friends' kids

► Star bonded with her young Aussie co-star

NED EHRLICH
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

For Heather Graham, taking on the role of oddball Aunt Opal, a guerilla artist and world traveller, in *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*, was something of a no-brainer, since Graham and Opal tend to view the world in a similar fashion.

"I've definitely done that. And I've definitely had the philosophy of how do I live my life as a work of art? Like, how do I get the most joy and pleasure out of every day and just appreciate everything?" Graham says.

Life philosophies aside, Graham was just excited to get into Aunt Opal's eclectic clothes — many of which made their way home with her.

"The wardrobe designer was so amazing — I loved her," Graham says. "Everything she had, I just felt like I was going crazy, like, 'I want this so bad when the movie's over.'"

But one trait Graham

and Aunt Opal definitely don't share, the actress wants to make clear, is a similar driving style, as Opal's wheel work on

screen is more than a little frightening at times. "I'm actually good driver," Graham insists.

One of the bonuses for



► Opal (Heather Graham) and Judy (Jordana Beatty) star in the upcoming release, *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*.

Graham of taking on that kind of role was immersing herself in the world of her young co-stars.

"You're not thinking and worrying about adult things, you're just really in the moment and having fun. And I think that's a good thing to remind yourself as an adult. It's fun to remind myself that everything is so fun and simple if you let it be that way."

Also fun was introducing Judy Moody herself, young Australian actress Jordana Beatty, to some U.S. customs.

"We decorated her trailer, because she's never had Halloween before because they don't have it in Australia," Graham says. "We went in her room and we decorated it with jack-o'-lanterns and all of these things, and we were so excited. We sur-

"It's really fun to be around kids and feel like that side of yourself that just wants to have fun."

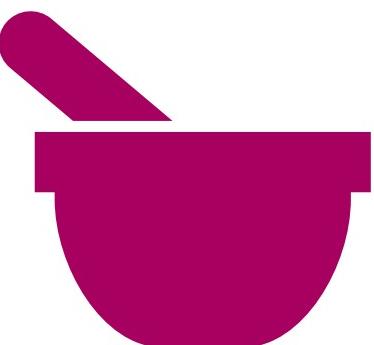
HEATHER GRAHAM, ON SPENDING TIME WITH HER YOUNG CO-STARS

prised her."

But the Halloween-themed fun didn't stop there, especially considering the bond that developed between Graham and Beatty.

"I was with her for her first Halloween," Graham remembers.

"It was after we stopped shooting, but we went trick-or-treating together. And she was a pumpkin. We went to [Los Angeles neighbourhood] Toluca Lake. It was crazy. There's so many people, and every single lawn looks like a set designer built it."



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HOLLYWOOD CASHES IN ON KID LIT

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

 According to Wikipedia, books written specifically for children have existed since the 17th century. Some of those books and stories have endured — Charles Perrault's Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella — some have not —

remember the 1658 book *Orbis Pictus in Bohemia*? — but stories for kids remain among the top sellers at bookstores and online.

Hollywood has been paying attention. As far back as 1910 *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* graced the silent screen and this summer, 101 years later, the parade of movies adapted from children's books shows no sign of slowing.

Next week Jim Carrey brings the Richard and Florence Atwater book *Mr. Popper's Penguins* to life and this weekend Heather Graham stars in an adapta-

tion of Megan McDonald's *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*.

In the world of kid lit the name Dr. Seuss looms larger than most. His books are classics; unfortunately the movies made from his work tend not to be. Although Theodor Geisel (the good doctor's real name) had great success on the small screen with animated specials like *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, he was reluctant to allow his creations to be turned into films. Two uneven adaptations — Ron Howard's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

and Mike Myers as The Cat in the Hat — so annoyed the writer's widow Audrey that she vowed to never again allow live-action versions of her husband's books.

Apparently animation adaptations are OK, and in 2008 *Horton Hears a Who!*, a big CGI film featuring the voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carell and Carol Burnett earned good reviews and broke the Dr. Seuss silver screen curse.

One writer whose work seemed made to entertain kids at movie theatres was Roald Dahl. From Willy

Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (later remade by Tim Burton as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) to *James and the Giant Peach* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox* to *The BFG* (Big Friendly Giant), his stories have easily adapted to live-action, stop-motion or traditional animation treatments.

But not all movies that sound like adaptations of children's books are the real deal. Think twice before you rent *The Woodsman*. The title may sound reminiscent of *Little Red Riding Hood*, but it's a dark drama about decidedly non-kid-



► Johnny Depp wowed as Willy Wonka in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

friendly events and although *Whoever Slept Auntie Roo?* is based on Hansel and Gretel be careful, it's the stuff of nightmares for little ones.

Sharon Osbourne's tough love attitude

► Says she's ready speak up when America hasn't Got Talent



IAN
JOHNSTON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

making it more about the talent and not someone's life story."

Watch out jugglers and fire-eaters. Judge Sharon Osbourne plans on being a lot tougher on this season of America's Got Talent.

"I'm definitely harder than I've been in previous years," says Osbourne, still best known as the no-nonsense matriarch on MTV's ground-breaking celebrity reality series The Osbournes.

"You don't want to destroy someone's dream. On the other hand, you don't want to give false hope. I'm comfortable in that position of being a little more judgemental."

"The thing I love about it — it's not just about the singing. Which can get kind of boring," says Osbourne.

Osbourne cautions that the instant fame associat-

ed with reality shows isn't necessarily the answer to lasting success.

"It's all about the talent," Osbourne cautions.

"With a reality show, you might get there quicker, but it doesn't last long. You can make it without a sex tape or being on a reality show."

America's Got Talent airs Tuesdays and Wednesdays on CityTV.

"On (America's Got Tal-



TV picks

Modern Family x 2

COMEDY. It's mostly repeats on tonight but at least there's a double shot of Modern Family. In the first episode, Claire tries to slow down a speeding driver. (Citytv)

Kennedy's final journey

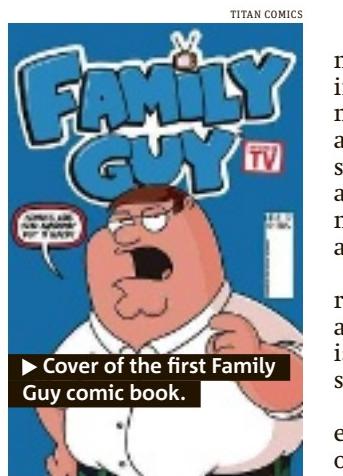
DOC. A new HBO documentary revisits the funeral of Robert Kennedy as mourners paid their last respects.

In One Thousand Pictures: RFK's Last Journey, photographer Paul Fusco recounts his experiences as he snapped photos from the train that carried Kennedy's body. (HBO Canada)

Family Guy gets its own comic book

Steve White, editor of the upcoming Family Guy comic book, is keenly aware of the franchise's history of drawing laughs and making viewers cringe.

That's why he says the new series, published by Titan Comics and debuting July 27 in comic book shops and on newsstands, will not only uphold the TV tradition of the Emmy-nominated animated show but delve deeper into the characters and comedy of Peter Griffin, his family and friends. "The Family Guy universe is an amazing wellspring of ideas to plunder. It's given us a lot of latitude to develop stories ranging from one-page gag strips to more extended full-length scripts and pretty much everything in



► Cover of the first Family Guy comic book.

between," he told The Associated Press recently.

The series will be drawn by S.L. Gallant, whose previous work includes runs on G.I. Joe and Torchwood, and Anthony Williams, who has drawn for Doctor Who, The Transformers and Ghostbusters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unlike a rigid 23-minute block of time, having the stories in print means more plot-twists and concepts, so each issue will, on average, have around three stories — a main story, a short tale and a gag strip.

"We're even looking at recurring one-pagers, but as I said, really, the world is our oyster here," he said.

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Turning television properties into comic books is often a successful way of bridging the mediums of

comics and the small screen, not to mention the big screen, too. Other publishers have done so, including IDW, which puts out comics based on Doctor Who, The Transformers and Ghostbusters.

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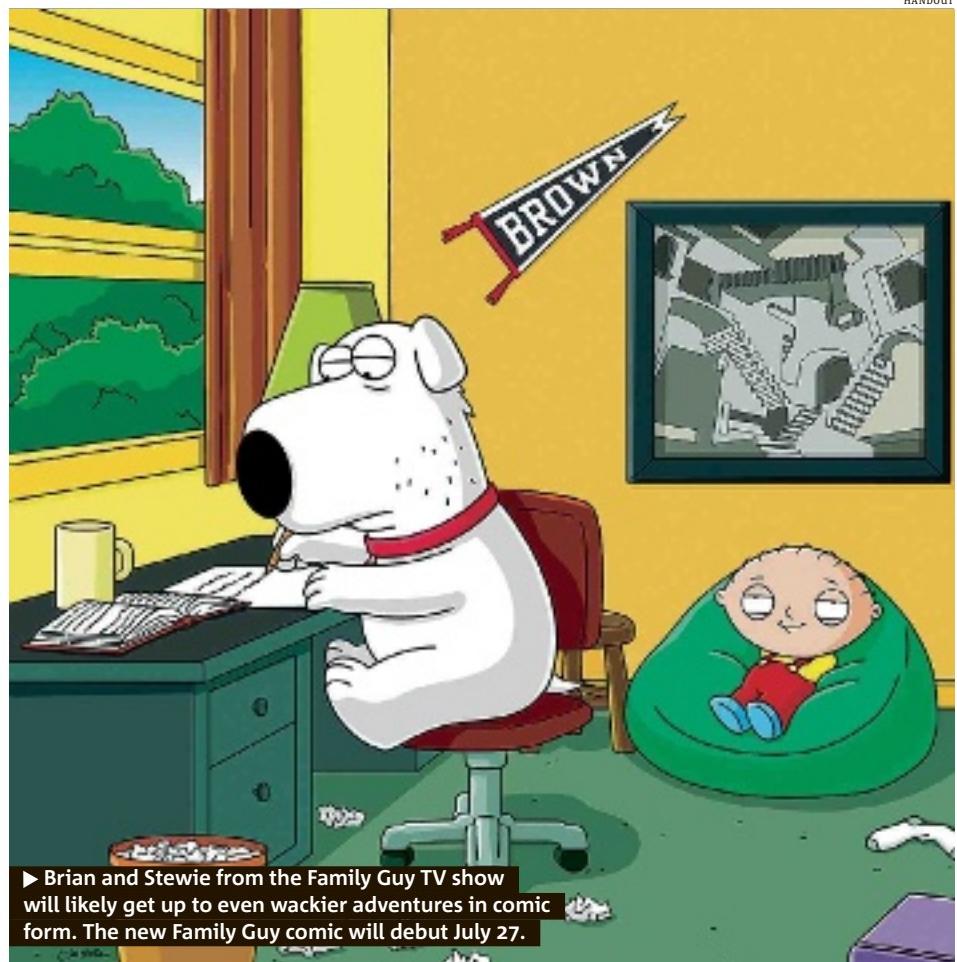
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► Brian and Stewie from the Family Guy TV show will likely get up to even wackier adventures in comic form. The new Family Guy comic will debut July 27.

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Any space can be beautiful.

Baby shower for Kate Hudson

► Lots of gender-neutral gifts for boy or girl

Kate Hudson is one step closer to becoming a mom again, celebrating with a baby shower at a private home in Malibu recently with guests including Rachel Zoe, Courteney Cox and Jessica Capshaw, according to People magazine. “[Kate] looked amazing and kept giggling while mingling with friends, nibbling on food and playing games. She seemed to have the best time,” a source says of the soirée. With the gender of the baby still a mystery, guests lavished Hudson with “gender-neutral baby items,” according to the source. ● METRO



► Kate Hudson

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Scarlett, Sean Penn still friends

Though Scarlett Johansson and Sean Penn have put their relationship to rest, they were spotted hanging out together recently backstage at Spike TV's Guys Choice Awards, according to Popeater, though it's apparently no surprise.

“If you remember after Scarlett confirmed her split from Ryan [Reynolds] the two continued to see each other and have dinner

together,” a friend of the actress says. “She is incredible. Just because you are no longer with someone doesn’t mean you stop caring about them and never want to see them again. She still cares a great deal about Sean and couldn’t imagine seeing him at an event or award show and not saying hello. Only children act like that.”

● METRO

Paul Reiser: Show was caught in network crossfire

While Paul Reiser is smarting over the cancellation of his latest sitcom, The Paul Reiser Show — which was yanked from NBC earlier this year after airing just two episodes — the comedian thinks there’s plenty of blame to go around.

“One of the things I’ve learned is it’s not really a great idea to develop a show at a network that gets sold in the middle of your

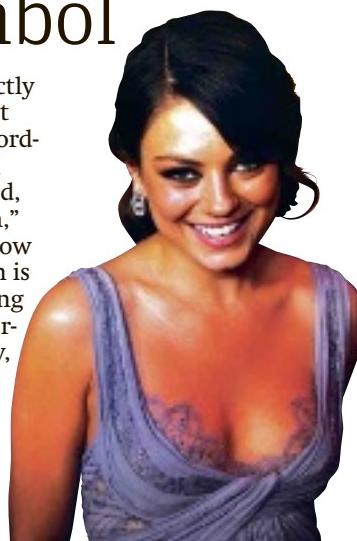


► Scarlett Johansson

Mila Kunis: I’m no sex symbol

Mila Kunis doesn’t exactly agree with the idea that she’s a sex symbol, according to L.A. Confidential magazine. “I’m flattered, but I’m not that person,” the former That 70s Show star says. “Sophia Loren is a sex symbol. If watching TiVo and eating Pinkberry in sweatpants is sexy, then I’m your gal.”

● METRO



Cheryl Cole not on X-Factor

Producers for the new U.S. edition of X Factor have made it official, announcing that Cheryl Cole is out as a judge for the reality series.

“Nicole Scherzinger will be replacing Cheryl Cole on the judging panel of The X Factor,” a statement from Fox, Fremantle Media and Syco TV reads.

“Nicole has previously joined Simon Cowell as a guest judge on The X Factor for the U.K. version of the show in 2010. Steve Jones will act as sole host of The X Factor.”

No official reason was given for Cole’s dismissal.

● METRO



► Cameron Diaz

Cameron ignores rumours of split

Cameron Diaz is reportedly laughing off reports that she and Alex Rodriguez have split up, according to Us Weekly.

The pair have been acting very much like a couple around L.A. recently, hitting up parties for the MTV Movie Awards and the NBA finals looking “very affectionate,” sources say.

As for dealing with reports about her love life, Diaz shrugs it off:

“If I want to read gossip, I read about somebody else’s life. I can’t worry about what other people say,” Diaz tells Extra.

“It’s fine to say whatever you want as long as you actually don’t know what’s going on in my life.”

● METRO

Celebrity tweets



@piersmorgan
“Has there ever been a better name for a sex scandal politician than

Weiner?”



@DamonLindelof

“Emma Frost’s THREE mutant powers: Telepathy, Transformation to Solid Diamond and last but not least, Sucking at Acting.”



@SethMacFarlane
“When society collapses, who do I talk to about being killed last?”

Enjoy the sights, sounds of Saskatoon

► Head to Canada's heartland this summer and taste the fruits of their labour ► The Saskatoon berry is a local favourite in many forms

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN

TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA



Who knew little old unassuming Saskatoon could be so colourful

and fun? Especially when there doesn't happen to be any snow on the ground.

Part of that colour, comes every year from the rich red juice of the fabled Saskatoon berry, which is a long time favourite of locals, and quickly becoming a tourist attraction for us out-of-towners.

After arriving at the famous "Berry Barn" just a few miles south of the city, I was hit with the undeniable fact that these tasty little berries are becoming a downright industry. We're talking pies, cakes, preserves, chocolates, ciders, teas and

Activities

Other cool things to do in Saskatoon.

- **Walk the Meewasin Valley Trail:** Stroll along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, which winds through the center of the city. In the winter you can even skate or snowshoe.
- **Wanuskewin Heritage Park:** This national historic site features an interactive museum on local native culture. The gateway to hundreds of acres of scenic trails, prairie landscape and archeological sites.

juices, all made from these berries. I even headed out back to harvest a few handfuls from the touristy berry patch orchard. Inside the Berry Barn gift shop, tourists were snatching up Saskatoon Berry plush dolls. Hey, why not exploit what you have! With breathtaking views of the South



► A beautiful red sky in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan River, and a great little country-style dining room, the "Barn" is a great way to while away a prairie afternoon.

Full of berries, and ready for some high speed adventure, I decided it was time to move on to the new Auto Clearing Motor Speedway, north of the city. Saskatoon has one of the best racing facilities in the country, and I have to say there is nothing like the excitement of a good stock car event in a city that appreciates it.

With a grandstand seating only 3,000, you can get an up close feel for what racing is all about, fast and



► The South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon.

furious style. That whole baron prairie stereotype of Saskatoon was quickly erased for me, soon after arriving in this vibrant city. Saskatoon berries, and stock cars ... what more do you need?

3

life

Travel in brief

Bibliophiles who love to travel have a new resource — the website literarytourist.com, launched by an Ottawa-based journalist who says he wants to help used bookstores stay in business. Nigel Beale calls the website a "one-stop shop for literary tourists," with listings for 7,000 to 8,000 stores and destinations across North America. Places in other countries will be added later.

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- New exhibit at Seattle's Experience Music Project gives movie fans a chance to visit Pandora ► 40 artifacts from the movie are on display
- Interactive features let visitors take direction from James Cameron

Visit the world of Avatar in Seattle

A music and popular culture museum in Seattle is banking on fans of the Oscar-winning film Avatar to take in a new exhibit on how director James Cameron brought Pandora and its inhabitants to the big screen.

The exhibit at the Expe-

rience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame opened Saturday after a Friday event featuring Cameron, some of the movie actors and Richie Baneham, who won the Academy Award for best visual effects.

The goal is to educate

and entertain, but not go so deeply into the Avatar world that it resembles an amusement park, museum associate curator Brooks Peck said. It will be the first of its kind to showcase artwork and props from the blockbuster film.

The exhibit at the muse-

um — built by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen — should also appeal to people interested in the science and technology behind movie making and set design. Anyone who heads straight to the interactive displays when they visit a museum may be sur-



► The Experience Music Project in Seattle has a new exhibit on the movie Avatar. The exhibit features props and costumes, as well as hands-on exploration of the creative process used to build the world of the science fiction film.

prised by how much of a taste they will get of how the movie and the world of Pandora were created.

Visitors can try a virtual

camera, like the one Cameron used, to see how the motion capture filming of the actors fit in with the virtual world created on

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computers. The gadget was created especially for the exhibit, which took more than a year to develop, Peck said. Another interac-

tive allows visitors to take the place of an actor from the film using motion capture technology. Cameron "directs" the guest actor in



► Brooks Peck, an associate curator at the Experience Music Project, gets ready for the big crowds for the exhibit on the movie Avatar.

a scene and afterward they can watch themselves and their avatar on a video screen and post a copy on YouTube.

The main part of the exhibit experiences night and day with the lighting cycling back and forth about every 20 minutes. Tendril-like light tubes hang from the ceiling and change colours as the time switches.

The 40 artifacts on display from the film — which is a combination of live action and animation — include the skeletal ro-

bot weapon or "Amplified Mobility Platform" used as a weapon in the film and the motion-capture suit worn for filming by one of the actors. The robot is only four metres tall in real life, but everything in the movie is larger than human scale and the exhibit illustrates this fact with a giant backpack and some giant shoes just waiting for a giggling four-year-old to try on.

The exhibit is populated with the original sketches and models of the Na'vi people and creatures that guided the animators, from models of the heads of the main characters to intricate, feather-and-bead covered headpieces and necklaces.

Some of the art is used as a basis for two other interactive modules: a create-your-own Pandora plant station and a large touch-screen library of hundreds of drawings and short films.

One of the coolest parts of the exhibit is located before the entrance: a large screen showing what appears to be a film of the

If you go ...

► **Avatar the Exhibition:** Opened June 4 at EMP at Seattle Center, 325 5th Ave. N., Seattle, empmuseum.org/index.asp or 206-770-2700. Open daily, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. General admission, \$18.

Na'vi forest, but when visitors step closer, they'll be able to interact with the playful "woodsprites" floating around. Peck said he hopes this screen will keep people entertained if they have to wait to get into the exhibit.

A few steps back from the exhibit, clips from the movie will loop on the EMP's giant screens along with clips from other science fiction flicks.

The museum won't have timed entries or an extra charge to see the Avatar exhibit. Visitors will have access to all the museum's exhibits including a recently opened retrospective on Nirvana and Seattle's grunge music scene.

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Travel Sep 21 - Sep 28/ws + taxes & fees \$498

Iqaluit
Travel Jun 23/ac one-way \$729 + taxes & fees \$140

Buenos Aires
Travel Sep 20 - Oct 4/aa + taxes & fees \$800

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7 Nights 3.5-Star
\$285*

Casa Marina Beach + taxes & fees \$400

Departs Jun 16/sgn/wg.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star
Holiday Inn Sunspree + taxes & fees \$355

Departs Jun 11/vat/c6.

Costa Rica 7 Nights 4-Star
Allegro Papagayo + taxes & fees \$240

Departs Jun 12/acv/ac.

Antigua 7 Nights 4-Star
Grand Pineapple Beach + taxes & fees \$222

Departs Jun 12/acv/ac.

Vacations

Bermuda
Air + 6 Nights 5-Star
\$1199

Cambridge Beaches Resort & Spa + taxes & fees \$153

INCLUDES beachfront resort-style accom in Bermuda's West End. Departs Oct 25/ggv/ws.

USA

Boston Air + 2 Nights 4-Star
\$489

Westin Boston Waterfront + taxes & fees \$128
INCLUDES central accom next to the Boston Convention Centre. Departs Sep 10/ggv/dl.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights
Imperial Palace + taxes & fees \$183

INCLUDES accom on the strip. Departs Sep 6/wsv/ws. **ADD** helicopter tour from \$172.

New York City Air + 3 Nights
Element by Westin + taxes & fees \$123

INCLUDES accom near Times Square. Departs Sep 1, 8/ggv/dl. **UPGRADE** to 4-star W New York

Downtown for \$30 per night. **ADD** theater tickets to Chicago, Billy Elliott, Mary Poppins or Memphis for \$143.

California Air + 7 Nights
Wilshire Grand Hotel, + taxes & fees \$129

INCLUDES airfare into Los Angeles and return from San Diego, 4 nights central Los Angeles accom and

3 nights central San Diego accom. Price is per person based on a family of four. Departs Jun 21, 28/ggv/dl.

San Francisco Pride Weekend
Air + 3 Nights Beresford Arms Hotel + taxes & fees \$118

INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions.

Departs Jun 24/ggv/dl. **ADD** San Francisco trolley hop for \$22.

Canada

Toronto Pride Weekend
3 Nights
\$209

The Sutton Place Hotel + taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom central to parade and entertainment. Travel Jul 1/ggv. **ADD** economy car rental with unlimited mileage for \$37 per day.

Montreal 3 Nights
Le Noveau Hotel and Spa + taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions. Travel Jul 1 - Jul 31/ggv. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Novotel Montreal Centre for \$15 per night. **ADD** economy car rental with unlimited mileage for \$37 per day.

Charlottetown
Air + 2 Nights 4.5-Star
Delta Prince Edward + taxes & fees \$128

INCLUDES Old Charlottetown accom near Peake's Wharf. Departs Aug 16/ggv/ac.

Halifax Air + 3 Nights
Citadel Halifax Hotel + taxes & fees \$141

INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions. Departs Jun 17, 24/ggv/ws. **ADD** economy car rental with unlimited mileage for \$32 per day.

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 **AMANDA HYDE**
METRO WORLD NEWS

When you think of Thailand, you tend to think of endless white beaches, paradise islands or hedonistic nightclubs, but this country has another side — the jungly, adventurous north.

Once a wild and lawless region, inhabited by drug barons and CIA agents, the province of Chiang Rai has had nearly two decades of sleepy peace, thanks to

the efforts of the late Princess Mother, who educated the locals about growing other crops as an alternative to opium.

It's now opening up to tourism, and a slow stream of holidaymakers is replacing the intrepid backpackers who used to be the only people brave enough to visit.

At the very edge of the country, where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge in the swirling brown waters of the Mae Khong

River, Chiang Rai is the perfect place to get to know what rural Thai life is like.

Spend a few days exploring the bottle green, undulating landscape — home to Akha and Yao hilltribes, as well as a couple of rescue centres for elephants shipped in from the streets of Bangkok (book excursions with Akha Hill House; 00 66 88 9997 5505; from \$39 per person).

Then make for the sleepy village of Chiang Saen: it's a charming introduction to everyday Thai life. See the frogs and chickens on sale in the market, ask a teenage boatman to row you along the border, and admire the gigantic Buddha that looks serenely over the water from its perch on the shore.

It's hard to believe now, but this city was once the capital of the powerful Lanna Kingdom. You can pay your respects in the ancient temple, Wat Chedi Luang, on the outskirts of town.

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Quick tips

- Learn about the region's grizzly past at the Hall of Opium, just outside Chiang Saen. This surprisingly balanced portrayal of the drugs trade includes both opium den recreations and a wall of famous people who became addicted to the drug (00 66 53 784060; \$10).

- You can cross the border into Myanmar on a tour of the Golden Triangle — but don't forget to take your passport.
- There are limited international flights to Chiang Rai airport. It's easier to get a flight to Bangkok and pick up a low-cost flight from there: Air Asia (airasia.com) and Thai Air (thaiair.com) both run flights, from around \$36 each way.

London
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Dep Jun 13, 20 | Ret Jul 11
Taxes & Fees: \$517

London
\$445

Dep Jul 11, 18, 25 | Ret Aug 22
Taxes & Fees: \$517

London
\$545

Dep Aug 22, 29 | Ret Sep 12, 19
Taxes & Fees: \$517

CANADIAN
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Be a tourist at home

► Try a staycation this summer ► Check out what's going on around the town



**PAULINE ANDERSON
FOR METRO**

Go directly to jail

One of Ottawa's best-kept secrets is the Hostelling International Ottawa Jail Hostel, the only hostel in North America located in a former prison. This Victorian-era architectural relic housed the last working gallows in Canada. It's where Patrick James Whelan was hanged on Feb. 11, 1869 for assassinating Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the founding fathers of Confederation. It was the last public hanging in the Dominion of Canada. The jail is said to be haunted with Whelan's spirit.

"It's really creepy and very atmospheric," says Janine Van Kregten, director of communications at Ottawa Tourism.

To see the top floor

death row with its gallows and trap door where Whelan and other criminals were hanged, take the Crime and Punishment jail tour.

Or, for another punishing experience, stay overnight in a converted cell on one of the floors below. There are also semi-private rooms and one single room (the 'warden's room'). For information call: (613) 235-2595 (or 1-866-299-1478).

Bif Naked hits WESTfest

And if you like haunts, don't miss this weekend's WESTfest: Westboro's festival of music, art and life, where some 100,000 locals and tourists hang out every year in a 14-block area.

Some of the most inspiring artists from across Canada will perform, with music headliners including Bif Naked, Tanya Tagaq, and

Ottawa's own The Murder Plans. The festival also has a Kidzone, complete with bouncy castles and a 30-foot inflatable slide. The free festival runs from June 10-12. Check it out at westfest.ca.

French culture shows

The following weekend, soak in some French culture at the Franco-Ontarian Festival, running June 16-18 at the Festival Plaza at Ottawa City Hall. With comedy acts, street performances and a wide range of musical genres, including jazz, techno, rock and hip-hop, this festival has something for everyone. And don't miss the street parade on Saturday afternoon, starting in the Byward market and finishing at the main festival site.

As a bonus, the prices have been reduced. A transferable bandana-passport

will get you on the site for the entire three days for \$20, down \$5 from last year (kids aged 12 and under get in for free). For the first time, the pass allows you to ride local buses for free during the event. Pick up tickets at any branch of the Banque Nationale or the Librairie du Soleil. For information visit ffo.ca.

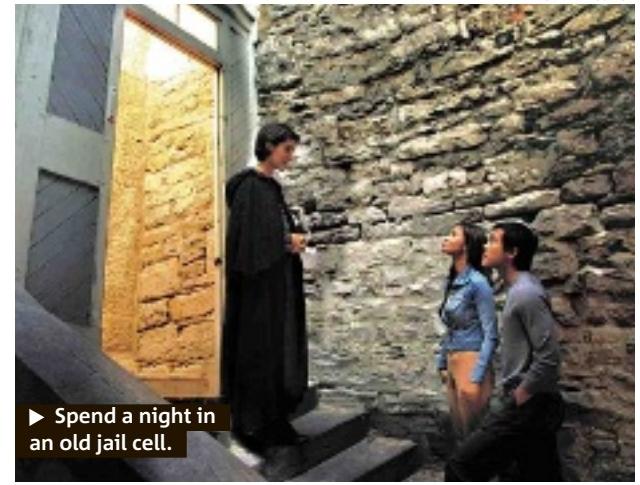
Open doors Chinatown

Before June 15, make sure to catch the Chinatown REMIXED Collective, an artistic and cultural phenomenon now on throughout Ottawa's Chinatown. Formed in 2008, this collective encourages emerging and established artists to display their work in unique alternative spaces, from restaurants to grocery stores to hair salons and elsewhere. Get your own Walking Tour map online at chinatownremixed.ca.



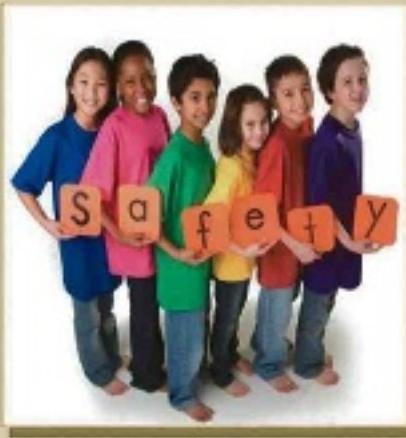
► Gates to Chinatown.

OTTAWA TOURISM



► Spend a night in an old jail cell.

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Brown rice for any time

► These recipes showcase how to use the grain in snacks, appetizers, mains

These brown rice bars are packed with dried fruits, nuts and seeds and bound together with wholesome brown rice and natural nut butter. They're portable, convenient and, best of all, provide the energy you need to keep up with your busy schedule. These bars can also be prepared as cookies.

Preparation:

- 1** Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F). In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until light and well combined. Beat in egg and vanilla.
- 2** In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Stir into butter mixture until well
- 3** Spread mixture into a parchment-lined 33-by-23-cm (13-by-9-inch) baking dish. Bake in the centre of oven until golden and set, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool before slicing into bars with a serrated knife.
- 4** Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days or wrap and freeze for up to 1 month.

ALL RECIPES: THE CANADIAN PRESS/RICEINFO.COM



Ingredients:

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter, softened
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pure nut butter (peanut, cashew, almond) with no additional ingredients
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 250 ml (1 cup) brown rice flour
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) gluten-free baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 500 ml (2 cups) cooked brown rice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) coconut
- 500 ml (2 cups) favourite trail mix

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► These Brown Rice Cuban Burgers are a healthy option for your next backyard barbecue ► They're easy to make



► Brown rice burgers are low in fat and high in fibre.

A meatless option for backyard entertaining, these convenient, healthy burgers are flavourful and made with ingredients from all food groups.

Preparation:

- 1** In saucepan, bring broth and rice to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until all liquid absorbed, about 40 minutes. Let cool
- 2** In skillet, heat 15 ml (1 tbsp) of oil over medium-high heat. Cook red onion until tender. Stir in pepper and mushrooms and cook until tender. Stir in

Fiesta Layered Salad



Preparation:

- 1** Cook rice according to package directions. Spread evenly on a baking sheet to cool; fluff with a fork.
- 2** In a bowl, whisk garlic with lime juice, cumin, salt, pepper, honey and hot sauce. Whisking constantly, gradually pour in oil to combine. Stir a spoonful of the dressing with the avo-
- 3** In a straight-sided glass bowl or trifle dish, layer red pepper, avocado, black beans, rice, corn, tomato, green onion, cheese and cilantro.
- 4** Drizzle with remaining dressing just before serving.

Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) long-grain brown rice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) lime juice
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) ground cumin
- 4 ml (3/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each honey and hot pepper sauce
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) oil
- 1 avocado, peeled and

cubed

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) chopped red pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) each corn kernels and chopped tomato
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped green onion
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) shredded cheddar cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped cilantro

- 4** Using wet hands, form into 125-ml (1/2-cup) patties. In skillet over medium-low heat, cook in batches using 15 ml (1 tbsp) of oil at a time until golden brown, 6 mins per side. Serve on buns with pickle slices.

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) vegetable broth
- 250 ml (1 cup) long-grain brown rice
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) safflower oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each finely diced red onion, red pepper, mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each ground cumin and coriander
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each coarse salt and red pepper flakes
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) gluten-free seasoned breadcrumbs
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans (drained and rinsed)
- 60 g (2 oz) crumbled feta
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Dill pickle slices (garnish)

Take a chance on the new kid

STUDENT VOICE

CAROLYN MANN
TALENTEGG.CA

I just finished my third year of a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

I live in a small city and find it difficult to find meaningful work experience. I don't know how many times I've heard, "You don't have enough experience," and wanted to scream back, "Well how do you think I am going to get the experience?"

I hope employers will



► Carolyn Mann thinks that a person's willingness to learn should be considered just as carefully as their former work experience.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Carolyn's experience:

- Even if you're only there for a summer, show your employer that you are a valuable part of the team by asking for more work, helping other employees with their work, and going above and beyond your boss' expectations on a regular basis.
- Keep your options open by applying to opportunities in a variety of fields – you never know who you will meet or what you'll accomplish. Don't limit yourself to your degree title.

eventually realize how ridiculous this is.

When employers do hire interns and students, though, they should include them in their teams for the long-run.

Nothing is more frustrating than putting in long hours and good ideas, and your employer refuses to see you as a long-term member of the team.

I understand that interns cannot always be long-term employees. However, employers should recognize that every new hire has the potential for long-term employment if they prove they're valuable.

Students and recent grads have a different view of the world and bring completely different ideas to the table. Allow them to be a part of your team, and you'll surely benefit.

My recommendation for

a similar situation is to gain the most experience out of the job, no matter the work environment.

Summer internships are short, but you will always be able to leverage the experience you gained for permanent jobs in the future.

When I was searching for a summer positions last summer, I applied to everything! Even though I didn't meet all the requirements posted, I explained my ambition and desire to learn, and explained how I could be a valuable addition to the team.

It can never hurt to apply, and eventually there will be some hiring manager out there who will see value beyond any lack of experience.

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RED FLAGS OF FIRING

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN

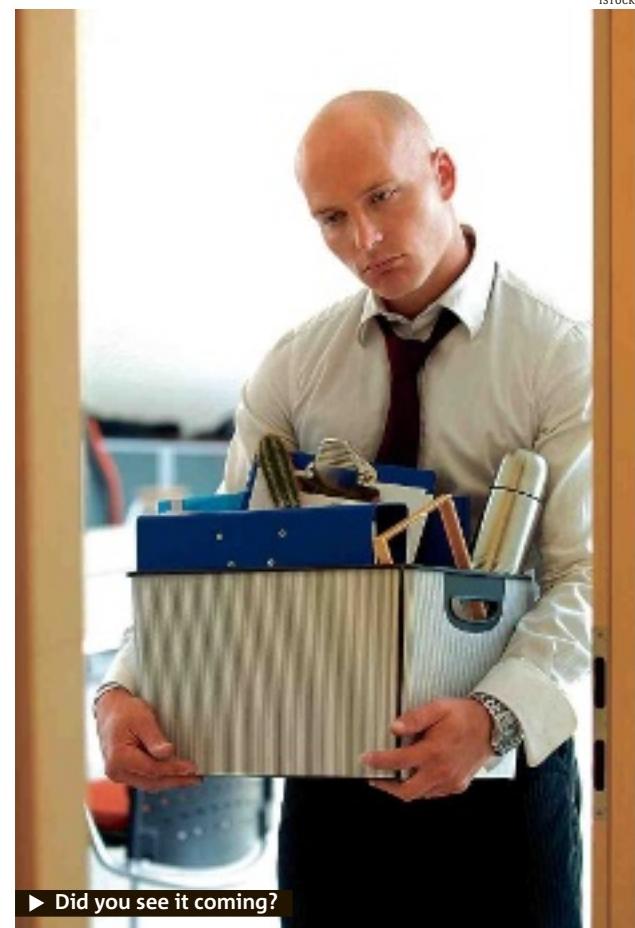
DAN@CANADA
EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN



Employers are becoming increasingly adept at covering their bases when dismissing employees. Many have learned from past errors that resulted in generous severance packages and now they are motivated to pay little, if any, severance at all. Here are some signs that you are about to be fired that I have gleaned from my clients in the workplace trenches:

- Your performance is suddenly scrutinized. Although your employer need not build a case for incompetence to dismiss you, many try to do it anyway. Their arguments may ultimately fail but, by making them, you become more inclined to settle for less.
- Having turned on you already, your employer's constructive feedback becomes scarce. Once the decision to fire you has been made, employers have less incentive to correct deficiencies in your work and, in some cases, more of an incentive to reveal them.
- If your company pays bonuses, expect to be fired right before yours is paid to you. With your
- departure in sight, your employer has little motivation to reward you.
- Expect that memos will arrive with comments where you were previously given instructions or feedback orally. Follow-up memos confirming conversations about your performance will also be delivered.
- You find your current job posted online — hopefully while you are looking for another one!

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. HIS FULL ARTICLE CAN BE READ ONLINE AT METRONEWS.CA



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Simple choices make big changes

► It's Clean Air Day — try something different ► Here are some ideas to reduce your environmental impact



CHRIS
EDWARDS
FOR METRO

Breathe easy — it's what you do when you know the future's bright.

Back in 1998, representatives from five environmental non-governmental organizations weren't feeling so confident. They took their concerns to then-federal Minister of the Environment, Christine Stewart, who in turn began informal consultations with other groups, other provinces, and municipalities.

Eventually, Stewart and her fellow cabinet ministers agreed that a 'clean air day,' encouraging environmental awareness, was what Canadians needed most.

Clean Air Day was officially launched on June 2,

1999 and takes place today during Environment Week.

Clean Air Day's goal is to educate the public and urge action on two key environmental priorities: clean air and climate. How this gets done varies from place to place, but a core part of every initiative is this: any action, no matter how small, even from a single person, can be part of the solution.

"Clean Air Day is a great time to increase awareness about air pollution and commit to activities that reduce our impact on the environment," says Henry Lau, a spokesperson for Environment Canada. "Actions that reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions can be part of every Canadian's daily life — they can have far-reaching

impacts on air quality, human health and biodiversity and reduce the effects of climate change."

Little things

That gives you a lot of options, even if you're a busy commuter in the middle of a long summer work-week.

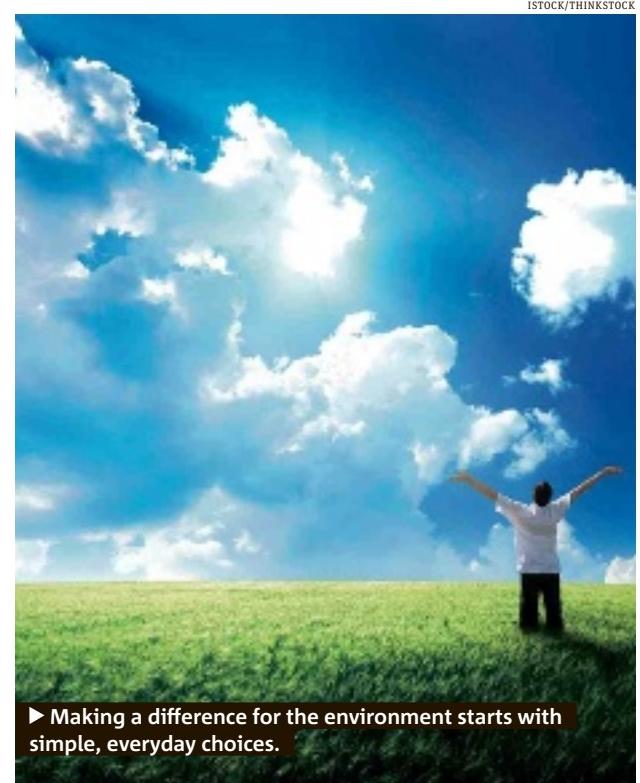
Why not start by unplugging your coffee maker after the brew's poured? Then close the windows and blinds as you leave the house — reducing the need for air-conditioning when you come home. Carpool to work. Store your lunch in a reusable container and bring your own mug for coffee or tea. If you work at an office, don't forget to turn off your computer when your day is done.

These are just a few of the ways you can adjust

your lifestyle to help make a difference for everyone. Each is easy to keep up year-round, turning daily decisions into long-term change — another one of Clean Air Day's principles.

If you want to participate in Clean Air Day activities near you, or contribute your own ideas for meeting Clean Air Day's goals, its organizers are listening. "We encourage Canadians to communicate with each other and exchange ideas about Clean Air Day," says Lau. "They can do it through our Canadian Environment Week Facebook event page, or by contacting us on Twitter, via @environmentca."

Clean Air Day's a reminder that the personal is powerful. Today, you can prove it again.



► Making a difference for the environment starts with simple, everyday choices.

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Going beyond the bike



► Plant a tree.

Clean Air Day's all about what you can do to make air quality and climate priorities in your life.

In fact, you probably already have some ideas. Maybe you'll celebrate by biking to work — or car pooling, if that's more reasonable.

You might turn off the water while you brush your teeth; have a bath instead of a shower; collect organic waste for composting; buy a reusable shopping bag.

The habits you start today can last a lifetime.

But environmentalism isn't just about changing behaviour, it's about finding solutions to problems; being curious about new ways to do things; being creative; even having fun. If biking to work is a Clean Air Day favourite, maybe it's time to try something new?

Suggestions

Here are a few ideas — some a bit far out, but all possible — and all based on Environment Canada's actual list:

► **Trash-free** Have a trash-free barbecue, inviting guests to bring their own utensils. Use Frisbees as plates — you can work off the dinner with a game or two when you're done.

► **Lose the mothballs** Use cedar chips instead of mothballs. Mothballs contain potentially harmful chemicals, and let's face it: they stink.

► **Natural air-con** Plant trees to shade your house. Saves air-conditioning costs in summer, looks great, hides the neighbours.

► **Sell it, don't toss it** Hold a yard or garage sale to sell unwanted items instead of throwing them away. (Have some Frisbees on-hand too: five cents for a burger, or 10 cents if you want to throw your plate behind the house).

► **Swap** Organize a clothing swap. Purge your closet of unwanted clothes and exchange them with friends and family. This is a great way to freshen up your look — or find a Halloween costume. If it is Halloween, be sure to tell your neighbours well in advance of your swap and you may find a treasure.

For more ideas, visit Environment Canada's website at www.ec.gc.ca.

● CHRIS EDWARDS

Horton, Rome both gone for remainder of final

► Bruins forward out with 'severe concussion' ► Canucks blue-liner who hit him gets 4-game suspension

There can be no justice when two men lose the chance to take part in the Stanley Cup.

Nathan Horton won't have the opportunity to score another big goal for the Boston Bruins after being hospitalized with a concussion. Aaron Rome, who delivered the hit that put him there, won't play another minute for the Vancouver Canucks this season after receiving a suspension four times longer than any previously handed out in the championship series.

Even the NHL, desperate to take a stand on dangerous hits, doesn't win when it comes down hard on a player at the most important time of year.

"I take it very seriously, very seriously," said league vice-president Mike Murphy, who is handling discipline for the final. "Guys play all their lives to get to this series on both teams, and you might never get back. So I take it very seriously. I do not make light of this."

"I wish I wasn't sitting here. I wish Aaron was playing, and I wish Nathan was playing."

Instead, an emotional series rife with bad blood will play on without them. The league went further than simply handing Rome a record-setting four-game suspension yesterday for his dangerous hit on Hor-

17

It will be no easy feat for the Bruins to carry on without Horton. He had eight goals and 17 points in 21 games in this year's playoffs.

ton in Game 3 — Murphy also issued a warning to both teams that any player caught taunting an opponent will be given a two-minute unsportsmanlike penalty and 10-minute misconduct.

"We've addressed it with the teams as early as this morning, and I will speaking with both general managers and coaches before the day is over about the crap that we're seeing and the garbage that's going on and some of the issues," said Murphy.

The Canucks were in a somewhat ornery mood despite holding a 2-1 series lead heading into Game 4 at TD Garden today.

In their minds, the only thing worse than losing 8-1 in Game 3 was seeing Rome banned for the rest of the series.

"We totally disagree (with the suspension)," said Canucks forward Daniel Sedin. "We support Rome. He's a hard-working guy. He has no intention to hurt anyone out there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Canucks defenceman Aaron Rome delivers his controversial hit on Bruins right-wing Nathan Horton on Monday. Rome was suspended for the hit yesterday.

Coyotes trade rights to Bryzgalov to Flyers

The Phoenix Coyotes have traded the negotiating rights of free-agent goalie Ilya Bryzgalov to the Philadelphia Flyers for forward Matt Clackson, a third-round draft pick in 2012 and future considerations.

The Coyotes had made Bryzgalov and defenceman Keith Yandle, a restricted free agent, their top priorities this off-season.

Negotiations with Bryzgalov broke down because the Russian goalie wanted

to not only be a top-paid goalie in the NHL, but one of the top-paid players, according to an NHL official who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

but Papelbon is appealing.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

Papelbon suspended

MLB. Boston Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon has been suspended three games for making contact with an umpire.

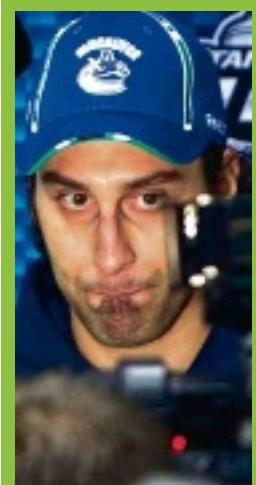
The suspension was to begin last night against the New York Yankees,

Allen sticks with Celtics

NBA. Ray Allen has exercised his option to remain with the Boston Celtics next season. The decision means the Big Three of Allen, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett will be together for one more season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Quoted

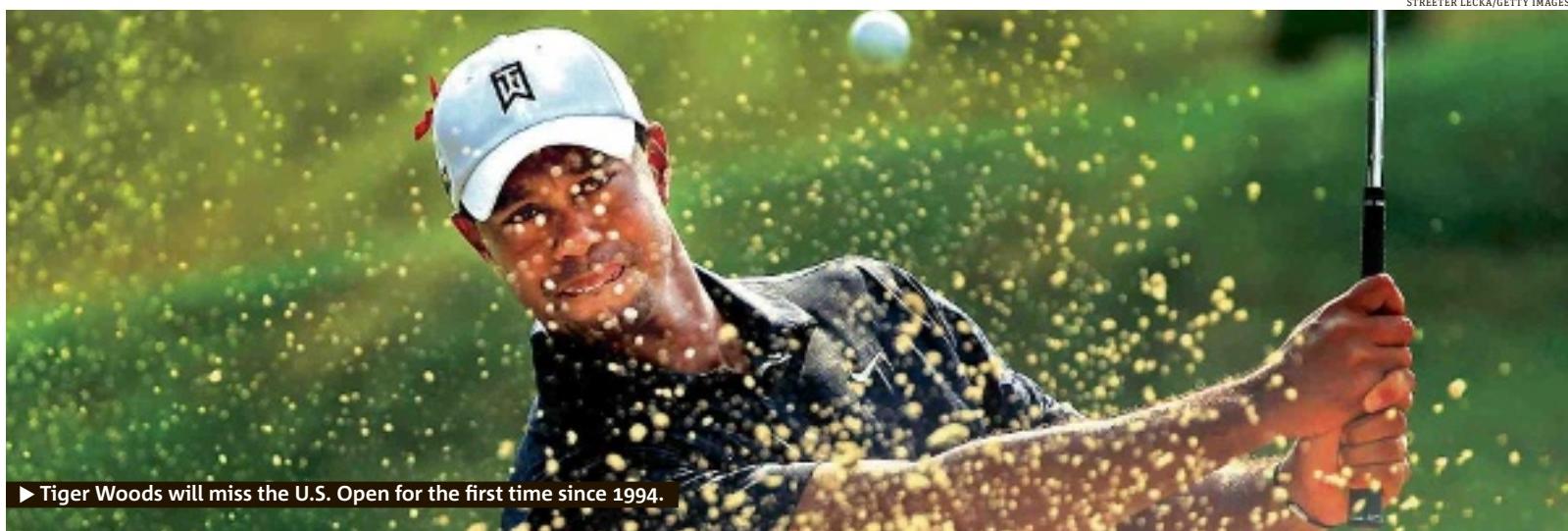


"I waited my whole life to be here. I'm not going to put my head down. It's time to get back to work. Obviously, last night was disappointing for all of us."

CANUCKS GOALIE
ROBERTO LUONGO



Scan code for more sports news.



Woods will miss U.S. Open

► With an ailing left leg that needs rest, Tiger takes a pass on a major

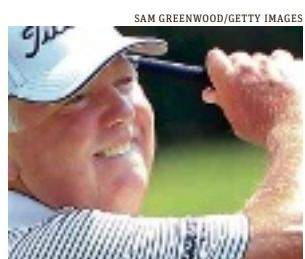
Tiger Woods pulled out of the U.S. Open yesterday because of lingering issues with his left leg, leaving him uncertain how soon he can resume his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus's record for major titles.

It will be the first time Woods has missed the U.S. Open since 1994, when he had just graduated high school.

"I am extremely disappointed that I won't be playing in the U.S. Open, but it's time for me to listen to my doctors and focus on the future," Woods said on his website. "I was hopeful that I could play, but if I did, I risk further damage to my left leg. My knee and Achilles tendon are not fully healed."

Woods said he hoped to be ready for the AT&T National, which starts June 30 at Aronomink, and the next two majors. Then again, he said two weeks ago he would do everything possible to be ready for the U.S. Open, which is far more significant.

"We're very disappointed that he won't be playing in the National Open," USGA executive director Mike Davis said, whom Woods called yesterday morning. "He certainly brings excitement to the event. He'll be missed, but the U.S. Open will go on. The event is big-



"I'd rather see him come back when he's ready. And if he's not prepared, then he shouldn't come back."

MARK O'MEARA

ger than one player, but he certainly will be missed."

The U.S. Open starts June 16 at Congressional, where Woods won the AT&T National two years ago and tied for 19th when the U.S. Open was last played there in 1997.

Woods was replaced by Michael Whitehead, a senior at Rice who was first alternate from the Dallas qualifier. Whitehead had to win a playoff just to get out of the first stage of 18-hole qualifying, and was stunned to get the news.

"They said on the phone that Tiger has withdrawn from the Open," Whitehead said. "So thanks, Tiger. I guess I'm glad he was listening to his doctors."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Sale in works for 76ers

The Philadelphia 76ers are on the market and a person familiar with the deal says the franchise once home to Wilt Chamberlain, Charles Barkley and Allen Iverson could be sold within the week.

The person spoke to The Associated Press yesterday on condition of anonymity because the deal with the group led by New York-based leveraged buyout specialist Joshua Harris is not yet complete.

Comcast-Spectacor, led by chairman Ed

Snider, has owned the Sixers since 1996, but the group's chief operating officer confirmed yesterday there are ongoing discussions about the team's future.

The person familiar with the deal said the Harris-led group was not the only bidder but is now the lead bidder, adding the deal has been in the works for several months.

ESPN.com, citing unidentified sources, first reported the Sixers were close to being sold to Harris. The site noted another investor included in the deal is former NBA player agent and Sacramento Kings executive Jason Levien.

The deal would need to be approved by the league's board of governors.

Comcast is the nation's largest pay TV provider and the majority owner of media conglomerate NBC Universal. Comcast owns the Philadelphia 76ers and the Philadelphia Flyers and the stadium where both teams play, the Wells Fargo Center.

NBC, now controlled by Comcast, retained its hold on U.S. Olympic television rights yesterday in a four-Games deal through 2020 worth \$4.38 billion US.

Harris is one of three founders of Apollo Global Management, a publicly listed alternative investment manager. Harris, through an Apollo spokeswoman, declined comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg lands GM for its new NHL team

Winnipeg's new NHL franchise has its first general manager.

A league source requesting anonymity said yesterday the yet-unnamed Winnipeg club has hired Kevin Cheveldayoff as its GM. Cheveldayoff will join the Winnipeg squad after serving as the assistant GM of the Chicago Blackhawks.

Scott Brown, a spokesman for True North Sports and Entertainment Limited — which owns the Winnipeg club — declined comment yesterday.

But the source said the NHL team will make the move official today.

Cheveldayoff, 41, a native of Blaine Lake, Sask., has experienced no shortage of hockey success as an executive.

He guided the Chicago Wolves to a pair of Turner Cup titles in the International Hockey League as well as two Calder Cup championships (American Hockey League) before joining the Chicago Blackhawks front office.

He was part of the Chicago club that captured last year's Stanley Cup.

Cheveldayoff was a defenceman selected in the first round, 16th overall, by the New York Islanders in the 1988 NHL entry draft.

He began his career with the AHL's Capital District Islanders, serving as an assistant captain 1991-93.

He had a similar role with the Salt Lake Golden Eagles in 1993-94, earning the team's Unsung Hero Award. But he was forced to retire after five pro seasons as a result of a knee injury.

Cheveldayoff's brother, Ken, is a prominent Saskatchewan politician. He is the province's minister of First Nations and Métis relations, minister responsible for northern affairs and minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation.

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VANCOUVER (W1) VS. BOSTON (E3)

(Vancouver leads series 2-1)

Tuesday's result

Boston 8 Vancouver 1

Tonight's game

Vancouver at Boston, 8 p.m.

Friday's game

x-Boston at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Monday, June 13

x-Vancouver at Boston, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15

x-Boston at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

x—if necessary.

</



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All-wheel-drive

Regardless of transmission, all X1s come with BMW's patented xDrive permanent all-wheel-drive setup.

The system splits the torque equally between the front and rear wheels under normal driving conditions, but when necessary can shift 100 per cent of the torque to whichever axle is driving the tires with grip.

Trim level options

To keep the starting price in low-\$40,000 territory, base X1s will be on the stark side, devoid of leather seats, fancy interior/exterior trim and a number of mechanical/safety features.

On the extra-cost sheet is a panoramic glass roof, bigger wheels, heated leather seats, up-level audio/navigation system and a sport steering wheel with paddle shifters for automatic-transmission models. Also offered is an aero body kit that's part of the M sports package.



► The X1 shares its platform and all-wheel-drive architecture with the Mini Countryman, but the X1 is bigger and, of course, more expensive.

The keys to this Bimmer won't kill your wallet

 **MALCOLM GUNN**
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

If you've been loitering outside the local BMW dealership, palms and cheeks pressed to glass thinking that was as close as you were ever going to get to owning a shiny new Bimmer, it's time to come inside.

Yes, the X1 has just arrived as a highly efficient, cargo-friendly and perhaps most importantly, wallet-friendly family transporter that also packs standard all-wheel-drive, which of course is perfect for Canadian winters.

The popularity of the X1 is so great around the world right now that there are shortages that will delay the model's arrival in the

U.S. market until late this year.

Somehow, Canadians lucked out.

While a close inspection and a test drive reveals a lot about the vehicle, the reason for its popularity actually requires nothing more than to understand that the X1 is now the least-expensive BMW wagon in the line at \$40,500, slotted below the \$43,900 X3.

It doesn't really look less expensive, though. In fact, the X1 looks a lot like the X3. A side-by-side inspection is really needed to reveal the X1's more car-like profile in addition to a slightly more elongated nose.

For buyers on a budget who are dead set on a BMW wagon, their wait is over. Now come inside.



► The X3 offers nearly double the cargo space of the X1, but at least you can fold the back seat forward to tote longer items.



► The dash is a bit plain, but nicely turned out in any event. Note that leather seats are optional, which should help keep the base price in the low-\$40,000 range.

Engine

Where the X1 makes a really radical departure from the X3 is under the hood.

The sole powerplant is an all-new 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder that puts out 241 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That's one horsepower more than the X3's base non-turbo 3.0-litre inline six, but crushes that engine's torque rating of 221 pound-feet. The X1 is also 180 kilograms lighter than the X3, which is good news for acceleration and fuel economy.



By comparison

Acura RDX

Base price: \$42,400
Similar to X1 in size and output, but trails in fuel economy.



Audi Q5

Base price: \$43,000
A4-based wagon offers standard turbo I4 plus optional 270-hp V6.



Infiniti EX35

Base price: \$44,200
G37-based wagon features 297-hp V6. Low profile reduces cargo room.



BMW X1



What you should know about the 2012 BMW X1 xDrive28i:

- **Types:** Four-door, all-wheel-drive compact wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (241).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual; eight-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Market position:** The new X1, along with the existing X3, gives BMW two compact wagons. However, the slightly smaller X1's claim to fame will be its superior fuel economy and, perhaps surprisingly, better performance.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 9.2/6.4.



Scan code for more car reviews and news

WAITING IS THE SECOND HARDEST PART

AUTO PILOT



MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Like anybody, I've experienced my share of miss-diagnosed car repairs and their subsequent misery.

But they are not at the top of my list of repair shop turn-offs, because those are generally honest

mistakes, made by people working on the sharp end of trying to right malfunctioning technology.

Reminds me of the sticker on my father's toolbox that read: "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."

No, topping my list of repair shop turn-offs is the waiting room.

Some shops and practically all new-car dealerships don't like you bugging the mechanics while they work — and who can blame them?

So you must sit in this weird "living room" type area somewhere in the shop.

But it's like a living room in an alternative universe, where you can't



► It's a good bet the reason this lady looks mad is because she's going to have to spend serious money at the repair shop.

leave until someone in charge lets you leave, and you can't change the stations on the TV, even if it's ShamWow, Oprah, or General Hospital.

If it's General Hospital, your aggravation is even

exasperated, because, as a very irregular viewer you don't know any back-story, like why Dr. Lainey Winters is so currently peeved at Dr. Matt Hunter.

Actually I lied.
The one-channel

waiting room is really just the runner-up on my list of repair shop turn-offs.

The one right at the top is irrational pricing for switching tires around.

This spring a dealership charged me \$49 to take my snow tires off and put my summer tires on (the latter already on their own, dedicated rims).

But this same dealership charges only \$19.95 for a tire rotation — essentially the same amount of work, and work that doesn't even need to be done by a licensed technician.

When I questioned the service advisor about this weirdness, she sympathized, but said her hands were tied. And this is not an uncommon pric-

ing strategy among tire and repair shops.

The main reason I took the car to this dealership was to find out why the "Check Engine" light was on. I threw the summer tires in the car at the last minute, knowing they'd charge me a bit more than other places, but it would save me a trip.

The "Check Engine" part of the work order they did brilliantly. Got the car in quick. Explained everything they did. Charged not a cent over what they quoted.

But the prevailing feeling I had as I drove away was that they "got" me on the tire thing.

And that Dr. Matt Hunter is probably not a stand-up guy.

Bridging the gap between gasoline and ethanol

DRIVING FORCE

JILL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Vehicles and their fuel have always been a chicken-and-egg proposal. Stations don't carry fuels that cars don't use, and drivers don't buy cars that need fuel they

can't find.

One way to bridge the gap is with flexible-fuel vehicles, capable of running on gasoline, ethanol blends, or a combination of the two.

Several automakers offer flex-fuel engines that accept E85 — a blend of 85 per cent ethanol and 15 per cent gasoline. They work the same way as regular gasoline engines, but have

special features to deal with E85's unique properties. Flex-fuel vehicles are usually identified by a badge and a yellow fuel filler cap.

"E85 is a little more corrosive than gasoline, so all the materials that fuel touches has to be designed for that corrosion," says Phil Petsinis, manager of government relations for General Motors of Canada. "The other key factor is

that ethanol has about a third less energy per litre than gasoline, so you have to flow more fuel to create the same amount of energy."

To handle corrosion, flex-fuel vehicles have fuel tanks, fuel lines, injectors and other components that can stand up to the fuel. These are usually made of steel with higher nickel content, Petsinis says.

Since ethanol burns slightly hotter, the valve seats in the engine are harder. A flex-fuel engine also uses higher-capacity fuel injectors and fuel pump to compensate for ethanol's lower energy density. These have to adjust the amount of fuel they pump depending on what's in the tank.

"Back in the 1990s and 2000s, we used an inline fuel sensor," Petsinis says.

"It put a micro-current through the fuel and could tell the resistance difference between gas and ethanol.

"These were expensive components. Today ... we've been able to eliminate that component. By understanding the exhaust emissions, we can interpret what that engine is 'seeing' by using other sensors that exist in the vehicle."

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Odyssey minivan still a comfortable ride

► Check last-generation Odyssey for possible transmission and steering issues

SECOND GEAR

 JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Competing with the Nissan Quests, Hyundai Entourages and, of course, the sales-leading Chrysler "Magic Wagons" of its era, Honda's last Odyssey was a five-door, seven-seat machine with V6 power, front-wheel drive and over 4,170 litres of maximum cargo space.

Available in numerous trim levels to suit a variety of budgets, more basic units were badged DX or LX, while higher-end EX, EX-L or Touring models were available.

Look for feature content

What's the 4-1-1

- Model: 2005 to 2010 Honda Odyssey.
- Vehicle type: Minivan.
- Price: \$9,000 to \$36,000.

like navigation, a sunroof, heated leather, fog lamps, Bluetooth, power sliding doors, satellite radio, automatic climate control and plenty more.

Power came from a proven 3.5-litre V6 engine with between 240 and 255 horsepower, depending on the year. A five-speed automatic was standard on all models.

What Owners Like

Most Odyssey owners report satisfaction with overall comfort, ride, handling, power output and even fuel



► 2005 Honda Odyssey Touring

mileage. Styling, spaciousness and the remote-activated sliding doors were also favourites.

What Owners Dislike

Common complaints of the Odyssey include higher-than-expected wind and road noise at speed, some low-budget interior trim and small arm rests for front-seat passengers. Some owners report a low front end, which could get crunched on curbs and steep driveways.

Common Issues

Start a test-drive with a full check of the power sliding doors (if equipped) and tailgate for proper operation. Power sliding doors should open fully and smoothly, and the tailgate should remain open without any help. If that's not the case, the gas struts could be in need of replacement.

Note that power sliding doors in virtually all minivans will eventually fail and require expensive repair.

Skip them if possible.

Kill the radio and drive the Odyssey gently up to highway speeds, noting any hesitation or "shuddering" from the transmission in the process.

Many owners have noticed some form of vibration or "stuttering" from the transmission, and some have had torque converters or transmission mounts replaced as a fix.

If the transmission in the Odyssey you're considering

makes any unwelcomed noises or vibrations, be sure to have it looked at by a Honda-trained mechanic.

Ensure the Odyssey's steering operates smoothly, easily and without any unwelcomed vibration or "pulling." Numerous owners have reported steering-related issues that could be caused by a failing or faulty power-steering pump.

The Verdict

Common last-generation Odyssey issues are well-documented and should be easy to detect and repair for any Honda mechanic.

Most shoppers agree that Odyssey's comfort levels, high-resale values and relative fuel efficiency should outweigh the potential issues.



Check out Justin's video car reviews online at youtube.com/mr2pritch.

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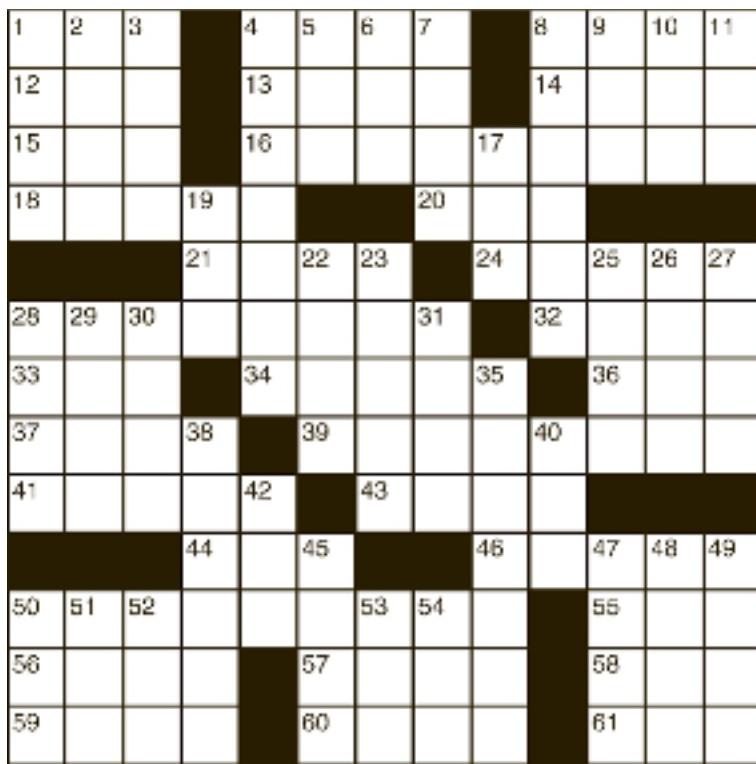
Crossword**Across**

1 Wood-shaping tool
4 Peruse
8 This and that
12 "Ostentatious? —?"
13 Canal city
14 Finished
15 Hostel
16 "No Place That Far" singer
18 Summarize
20 Calendar abbr.
21 Sci-fi knight
24 Grit one's teeth
28 Arabian nomads
32 Vocal comeback
33 Lawyers' org.
34 Dutch bloom
36 Cage component
37 Bigfoot's cousin
39 1984 Winter Olympics site
41 Word on the street?
43 Lived
44 Bankroll
46 Expiate
50 Minuet-like dances
55 Book spine abbr.

56 Gel in a Petri dish
57 Nevada city
58 Doctrine
59 Frog's hangout
60 List-ending abbr.
61 — Moines

Down

1 Eastern potentate (Var.)
2 Finished
3 Galvanizing material
4 Aretha classic
5 Historic time
6 Melody



7 Unhearing
8 Of cattle
9 Eggs
10 X rating?
11 Day divs.
17 Work unit
19 1977 Steely Dan album
22 — ex machina
23 Relative by marriage
25 Farm fraction
26 Con's weapon
27 Vagrant
28 Puts into words
29 First victim
30 — tat-tat
31 Paddock papa
35 Sunshade
38 To the center
40 Lustrous black
42 Talk on and on
45 Challenge
47 "Metamorphoses"
poet
48 Schnozz
49 "Desire Under the —"
50 Potential syrup
51 Past
52 Scooted
53 Trawler need
54 "CSI" evidence

► Yesterday's answer

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

Aries March 21-April 20 If you want a relationship to get back to how it used to be, you must discuss the future — together.

Taurus April 21-May 21 You know that you have what it takes to reach the top but others may still need convincing.

Gemini May 22-June 21 Best way to win others over is to act as if their approval means nothing.

Cancer June 22-July 22 A family member will bring some unexpected news today. You will realize you should have seen it coming.

Leo July 23-Aug. 23 If there is someone you have been neglecting, now you must get things back to how they used to be.

Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Under no circumstances should you try to blame others for your failures.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You need to convince people you live, work and do business with that you know what you are doing.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The doubts and worries of the past few weeks will fade into nothing over the next 24 hours.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You see clearer and further than most other people, so trust what your inner voice tells you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will have to make a difficult choice concerning your work today.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 From today, you will have a clearer picture of what must be done to make life more enjoyable.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 No matter how reticent a Pisces you may be, you must speak up if you need help. ● SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

3	4					1	5
		9		4			
6	7				3	8	
		9	5	1	4		
	3					9	
	4	7		3	8		
4		6			7	9	
		2	8			8	3
1	2						

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

9	3	7	8	1	5	4	2	6
5	1	4	8	2	9	7	3	8
8	2	6	3	7	4	1	5	9
3	8	9	7	4	2	5	8	1
2	7	8	1	6	6	3	9	4
1	4	5	9	3	8	2	8	7
6	5	1	4	6	3	8	7	2
7	9	2	5	8	1	6	4	3
4	8	3	2	6	7	9	1	6



You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

My Bebeboo, There is no feeling more comforting and consoling than knowing you are right next to the one you love. Happy 2nd year, my love. Thanks for crashing into my world. Olive juice! JUNE OCHO PURPLE

Roberto S.G, My beautiful baby i miss you so much i hope we'll be together soon and nobody will separate us again i love you and everything i do is for us for our future my love is all yours XOXOxoxoXOXO INRY S.S.

Scott, The first time I saw you, I thought you were the most beautiful person I had ever seen. Yrs later, I still look at you the same way. You are my Lover and Best friend, fate brought us together and our special love will KEEP us together. I LOVE You with all my heart, you are truly my soul mate xoxoxoxoxo! KELLY

Caption contest

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